"JACK"
BRAND— BRITISH—
PILSENER.

The Bombay Gazette.

No. 51,621—New Series. BOMBAY:—SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1899.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC

VISITORS TO THE OLD CITY
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GLOUCESTER ROAD, LONDON, S.W.

SHIPPING.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

WITH LIBERTY TO CALL AT BRINDISI AND MALTA.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains. SATURDAY, 2 P.M. 1899.
M.L. EGYPT	7912	G. Langbourne ... 20th May.
* SUTLEJ	4161	F. J. Fox ... 27th "
M.L. ARABIA	7903	J. L. Parritt ... 3rd June.
CLYDE	4099	C. Denny ... 10th "
M.L. CARTHAGE	5198	C. Gadd ... 17th "
* SUTLEJ	4161	F. J. Fox ... 24th "
M.L. CALEDONIA	7558	E. Gordon ... 1st July.
* CLYDE	4099	C. Denny ... 8th "
M.L. PENINSULAR	5227	W. Winter ... 15th "
* SHANNON	4362	L. Wilmer ... 22nd "
M.L. EGYPT	7912	G. Langbourne ... 29th "
* CLYDE	4099	C. T. Denny ... 5th Aug.
M.L. ARABIA	7903	J. L. Parritt ... 12th "
* SHANNON	4362	L. M. Wilmer ... 19th "
M. L. SUTLEJ	4161	F. J. Fox ... 26th "

The steamers marked M.L. proceed to Marseilles, Plymouth and London. Passengers for Brindisi transhipping at Port Said.

The Steamers marked * proceed to Aden only, and Passengers tranship here for Brindisi, Marseilles, Plymouth or London.

HEAVY BAGGAGE must be sent to the BALLARD PIER on FRIDAY AFTERNOON the day previous to Sailing and CABIN BAGGAGE before 9 A.M., on SATURDAY. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage Labelled with Port of Destination.

Tenders leave the Ballard Pier at noon on day of sailing. All Passengers must attend at that place between 11 A.M. and 12-30 P.M., for medical inspection by the Health Officer of the Port, and no one will be allowed on board the Mail Steamer unless so examined and conveyed thence in the Company's steam barges. Special attention is directed to these regulations, which are imperative under the Venice Convention.

Friends of passengers cannot go on board the Mail Steamer.

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The Company's STEAMERS LEAVE BOMBAY FORTNIGHTLY, usually on TUESDAYS, taking Passengers for the STRAITS, CHINA, and JAPAN, and Return Tickets are issued on favourable terms.

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For further particulars apply to

I. M. SHIELDS,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.
Bombay, 8th May, 1899.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S.N. Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

TO TRIESTE DIRECT VIA ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To sail on
IMPERATOR	L. Brelich	4,139	1st June 1899.
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE OR VENICE	Rs. 600	Rs. 325	Rs. 150

TO TRIESTE, VIA KURRACHEE, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on or about
MARQUIS			
BACQUEHEM	C. Androvich	4,409	7th June 1899.
VINDOBONA	C. Bellen	4,351	7th July 1899.
SILESIA	R. Mayer	5,000	7th Aug. 1899.

PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE.

	Saloon.	Deck.
TO TRIESTE OR VENICE	Rs. 375	Rs. 150

RETURN TICKETS TO TRIESTE AND VENICE.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.
Available for 6 months	Rs. 560	Rs. 375
Available for 12 months	" 1,000	" 625

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1st and 2nd Class Single and Return Tickets are issued via Trieste, the St. Gothards, and other Routes.

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The Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Austrian Lloyd's and the Return Voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Co., at reduced fares.

This arrangement will prove of special advantage to passengers on three months' privilege leave.

Steamers leave TRIESTE for BOMBAY direct on the 3rd and those via KURRACHEE on the 23rd of each month.

Passengers to VENICE tranship at TRIESTE to another Company's steamer, which takes about 6 hours to cross the Gulf.

STEAM TO COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, YOKOHAMA, AND KOBE.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To sail on or about
SILESIA	R. Mayer	5,000	22nd May 1899.

For further particulars, Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

E. SCARPA, Agent,
Fascoon House, 52, Church Gate Street, Bombay, May, 10, 1899.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS

TO MARSEILLES DIRECT.

VIA ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	To sail on Tuesdays, 12 NOON.
SALAZIE	4,255	Negre	6th June 1899
LAOS	6,337	Pandin	4th July 1899
SYDNEY	4,222	Aubert	1st Aug. 1899
OCEANIEN	4,249	Schmitz	29th Aug. 1899
ERNEST SIMONS	5,707	Le Coispellier	26th Sept. 1899
INDUS	6,357	Chevalier	24th Oct. 1899

Passengers are requested to ATTEND at the BALLARD PIER for the MEDICAL EXAMINATION at 10 A.M. All luggage, properly addressed and Labelled, should be sent to the steamer in the Stream the day before, or early on the morning of the day of Sailing.

TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, TONQUIN, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Vessel.	Tons.	Captain.	To sail on or about,
CALEDONIEN	4,232	Durrande	31st May, 1899.

INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS WITH THE AUSTRIAN LLOYDS S. N. Co.

The Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Messageries Maritimes, and the return voyage by the Austrian Lloyd's at Reduced Fares. This arrangement will prove, in some cases, of special advantage to Passengers on three months' privilege leave.

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LIVERPOOL—22, Water Street.
PORT SAID—2, Quay Francois Joseph.

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FOR KURRACHEE AND COAST PORTS.

S. S. "VASNA," 915 tons, on the 23rd May, at 10 a.m., calling at Veraval, Mangrole, Porebunder and Cutch Mandvie. (Weather permitting.)

FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "ASSYRIA," 1,495 tons, at 10 a.m. on the 25th May, calling at Kurrachee, Muscat, Jask, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bahrein, Bushire, Fao, Mahomerah and Busreh, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASA AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "SIRDHANA," 2,729 tons, on or about 7th June, calling at Seychelles, Mombasa and Zanzibar in the foregoing or any order.

FOR ADEN, MOMBASA, ZANZIBAR AND LAMOO.

S. S. "CANARA," 1,902 tons, on or about 15th June.

FOR COAST AND CALCUTTA.

S. S. "CHANDA," 2,022 tons, on or about 20th May.

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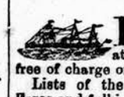

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THE BOMBAY DIRECTORY

Has been enlarged, verified, and carefully revised up to the day of going to Press. Special care has been taken that the local information shall meet the wants of commercial men and the general public.

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Apollo Street, Bombay, 18th May, 1899.

NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC are INFORMED that on the afternoon of the TABUT IMMERSION DAY a portion of the Frere Road between Carsac Bridge and Modi Bunder will be CLOSED to traffic during such time as the Tabut Procession is passing.

H. KENNEDY, Commissioner of Police.

Police Commissioner's Office, Bombay, 18th May, 1899.

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THE BOMBAY and KARACHI DEPOTS of this Society will be CLOSED on WEDNESDAY, the 24th instant, for "QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY."

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THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of this Company, which was to be held on the 22nd instant, has been POSTPONED to a date which will be notified as soon as possible.

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BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 5h. 25m. Sun sets, 6h. 28m. High water, 7-27m., 7-10s. Low water, 1-17m., 1-10s.
Banks closed : Moharrum holiday.
Royal Bombay Yacht Club races.

TO-MORROW.

Sun rises, 5h. 27m. Sun sets, 6h. 28m. High water, 1-33m., 2-25s. Low water, 7-15m., 8-27s.

THE EMPIRE OF INDIA LIFE OFFICE.—In the course of a review of the report of this Insurance office, the "Insurance Guardian" of May 1 says :—A dividend of 3½ per cent, is all the modest remuneration accorded to the shareholders. Considering that the company has only had a couple of years to feel its feet and to make itself known and respected, we congratulate the chairman and managers on their position and prospects.

SUICIDE OF A HINDU WOMAN.—Yesterday, an inquest was held at Laibaugh, Parel, on view of the body of Parwati, a Hindu woman, aged twenty-five years. The deceased, who was the wife of a compositor employed in the "Catholic Examiner" Press, had been for six months past suffering from fever and was in consequence deranged in mind. She used to talk incoherently, and frequently ran away from home. On Thursday, at noon, her husband missed her, and on making a search, her body was found floating in a warm water tank in the compound of the Dinshaw Petit Mills at Laibaugh. The Jury returned a verdict that the woman had committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF A CONVICT.—A strange incident happened at the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, when a prisoner, who was being taken from the court to the lock-up, made a wound in his own stomach with a penknife. The accused, whose name is Rucked Bhoja, was charged before Mr. Hamilton with theft and was sentenced to six months' hard labour. The wound being of a serious nature he was taken to the J. J. Hospital for treatment, where a police guard has been posted pending his recovery. On searching his person no knife was found. He had been brought from the Common Jail and kept in the Police Court lock-up before he was placed on his trial, and how he got hold of a knife is a mystery.

THEFT OF TYPE.—Yesterday, at the Esplanade Police Court, Mr. Sanders-Slater disposed of the case in which Jonah, a hawker, was charged with having, on the 4th April last, dishonestly received and disposed of a quantity of type, valued at Rs. 450, the property of Messrs. Dickinson and Co., knowing it to have been stolen ; and Sharafali Gulam Husain and Ebrahimjee Gulam Husain, Borah merchants, were charged with dishonestly receiving and concealing the property. Mr. Sakardande appeared for the first accused. His Worship remarked that the case against the second and third accused might be dealt with together. It appeared that after the police had visited the press, the work people there at once gave intimation of the visit to the third accused, who came post haste, and at once got the first accused No. 2 to remove the type to a place of concealment. This evidence was practically uncontradicted. Whatever ideas No. 3 might have had regarding the type, when he called in No. 2 to take it away, the fact that the police had been making inquiries regarding it, and by his own showing he wanted no trouble with the police regarding it. Instead, then, of at once handing over to the police the property which he thought likely to be the subject of a further search and consequent trouble, he got No. 2 to take it away, and No. 2, knowing the reason why No. 3 wanted it to be taken away, took it to an urinal in the Sledge Buildings, and there locked it up, where for some time it remained effectually concealed. His Worship held the property to have been stolen property, and that when the accused effected its removal from the third accused's premises, both Nos. 2 and 3 knew or had reason to suspect it to be stolen, and with that knowledge they voluntarily assisted in concealing it. His Worship did not think it was necessary to sentence either of these accused to imprisonment. There was no case proved against them of receiving property knowing it to have been stolen, but of the less serious offence of concealing property when they knew it to be such. His Worship, therefore, fined each of them in the sum of Rs. 200. The first accused, who had a previous conviction against him, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. At Mr. Sakardande's request, his Worship enhanced the sentence by a day to make it appealable.

HIGH COURT.—APPELLATE SIDE.

(Before the Hon. Mr. Justice JENKINS, Chief Justice, and the Hon. Mr. Justice RUSSELL.)

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES REVERSED.

IMPERATRIX VS. ISUF MAKAN AND FOUR OTHERS.

THIS was an appeal from a decision of Mr. E. H. Moncrieff, Sessions Judge of Surat at Broach, on the 1st March last, convicted the five accused of murder and sentenced them each to transportation for life. Mr. Branson, Mr. F. S. Taleyarkhan and Mr. Coyajee, appeared for the accused and the Government Pleader appeared for the Crown.

In this case six Bohras of the village of Kolauna, in the Amod Taluka, were charged with culpable homicide amounting to murder, in that they caused the death of one Saleman Aku. The first four accused held down the deceased, face upwards, while accused No. 1 cut his throat with a knife, severing the windpipe, while accused No. 5 stood by and superintended the operations, and accused No. 6 and two others, who were not in custody, stood by and kept guard. The first information of the crime was given to the Chief Constable of Amod by the Police Patel of Kolauna. The Police Patel received the information from the father of the deceased that his son had been murdered, and that his corpse was lying in a lane, close to a piece of open land within the boundary of the village. The father of the deceased stated that he suspected the six accused and two others mentioned in the police patel's report, because he had had a long standing quarrel with them on account of a woman named Bai Fail, the only child of a deceased brother of his, who was living with accused No. 3 as his wife, and because he was informed by two persons that the accused were the murderers of his son. The Sessions Judge remarked that the assessors, always unwilling to convict in a case of murder, seemed to have been carried away by the eloquence of speeches of Mr. F. S. Taleyarkhan who represented accused Nos. 1 to 4 and accused No. 6; and Mr. Naoroji who represented accused No. 5, and had adopted the main arguments of those speeches as their reasons for believing in the innocence of the accused. The Sessions Judge, differing from the assessors, convicted the first five accused of the offence of murder and sentenced them to transportation for life, while No. 6 was acquitted and discharged.

Their lordships, after hearing the arguments of counsel for the defence, allowed the appeal and acquitted all the five accused.

THE MOHURRUM FESTIVALS.

IN connection with the Moharrum festivals, which commenced from the 12th instant and end on Sunday, Mr. H. G. Bell, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, has this year issued licenses for the construction of 1,190 taboots and 675 punjas, as against 119 taboots and 677 punjas, which were allowed last year. The total number this year is distributed in different divisions as follows: In A division, which comprises Colaba, the Fort, Esplanade, Crawford Market, and Bori Bunder, 4 taboots and 16 punjas; in B division, which consists of Pydhownie, Khadak, Chakla, Gomzercarry, and Mandvie, 28 taboots and 104 punjas; in C division, which covers Dhobi Talao, Mahomedan and Parsee Chawl, Sonapore, Kalbadevie, Bhuleshwar, and Fanaswady districts, 32 taboots and 132 punjas; in D division, which embraces Girgaum, Kandawady, Khetwady, Chowpatty, Tardeo, Malabar Hill, Mahalaxmi, and Grant Road, 10 taboots and 42 punjas; in E division, which includes Kamatipura, Byculla, Masagon, Jacob Circle, and Tarwady, 23 taboots and 270 punjas; in F division, which comprises Parel, Mazagon, Kalachowky, Sopari Baugh, Dadur Road, Naigaum, Sewri, and Sion, 8 taboots and 23 punjas; and in G division, comprising Mahim, Worlee, De Lisle Road, Curry Road, and Ferguson Road, 5 taboots and 28 punjas. The taboots and the punjas will, on Sunday afternoon, move in procession by their usual route for immersion at Coolie Bunder, the route being Bhendy Bazar, Kalbadevie Road, Esplanade Cross Road, and Carnac Bunder Railway overbridge. The road from Money School to the Crawford Market will be in charge of Superintendent McDermott; while Superintendents Holdway, Grennan, and Hack will be responsible for the traffic on the Kalbadevie and Carnac Roads. It has been arranged that all the taboots and punjas should be at the Coolie Bunder by four o'clock in the afternoon. The Commissioner of Police as well as the Deputy Commissioner will be on duty in or near Bhendy Bazaar. The European police officers in charge of the different localities will be mounted, and accompany the processions from their respective sections. The tramway traffic on the Kalbadevie, Bhendy Bazaar and Carnac Roads will be stopped during the afternoon.

NOTES FROM AHMEDABAD.

AHMEDABAD, MAY 17.

A MEETING of the workmen of the Ahmedabad Ginning and Manufacturing Company was held, on Sunday last, at Ahmedabad, in honour of Mr. S. Tonge, the manager of the mill, who is proceeding to England to-day by the mail steamer Egypt on four months' leave. Mr. Manibhai Narunji Pandya, the head moonim of the agent's firm, was called to the chair. Mr. Isaac S. Tarapurwala, who represented the mill-hands, spoke in high terms of Mr. Tonge's kindness towards his subordinates, and of the ability, zeal and industry which he displayed in the performance of his duties. Mr. Jamseji S. Mistri, the carding master of the mill, also addressed the meeting, endorsing all that had been said by the previous speaker. The chairman then presented to Mr. Tonge a silver tea service and a silver tray in recognition of his services to the company. Mr. Tonge, in accepting the present, thanked those present for their kindness towards him, and assured them that he would continue his endeavours in the interests of the mill. After the distribution of flowers the meeting dispersed.

NOTES FROM DUMAS.

DUMAS (*via* SURAT), MAY 18.

THE weather has lately been very stormy, and the visitors to Dumas cannot enjoy the seabreeze in the evenings owing to sand blowing. Weather is generally very cool and favourable, although this year during the season there is not such a large gathering of visitors from up-country, and it is a great regret that there are no sports and entertainments for a week in the season, as have taken place in the past years.

Information has reached here that Mr. Ambalal N. Jani, who was a schoolmaster at Ahmedabad, has taken upon himself to proceed to America and Yola Mr. Ghandhi, of the Jain community. Mr. Ambalal is the second youth of the Visnagar Nagar community who sails from India. He leaves on the 20th, and we wish him every success in his enterprise.

THE COLLISION ON THE B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

MR. ALLAN F. TURNER, the Coroner, resumed the inquiry, yesterday afternoon, at the new offices of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company, Church Gate, regarding the circumstances under which the two persons viz., Babaji Baji, aged forty years, Doorgabai, a girl, aged ten years, and her brother, Arjoon Balia, aged eight years, met their deaths while travelling between Marine Lines and Churney Road stations, on the morning of the 10th ultimo. Mr. P. Byrne, of Messrs. Roughton and Byrne, solicitors, appeared for J. Dolben, the driver of the engine, which collided with the up local train, Mr. Clabby, the Superintendent, and Mr. Munshi Hussein Mahomed, Chief Constable of the Railway Police, watched the proceedings on behalf of the Railway Company. Mr. De Sa, Traffic Inspector, was also present.

Mr. Andrew Christiansen, engine driver on the B. B. and C. I. Railway, examined by Mr. Byrne said, that on the 26th of April last, he took No. 10 up mixed train through Churney Road station. Outside the station the distant signal was given to him. He then noticed the home signal and starting signal both lowered. Mr. Rogers, the interlocking signal inspector, was with him on the engine. Either he or witness passed a remark to either of them, "this is something like Dolben's case." The starting signal was lowered, when it should have been a danger. A local train and a light engine had preceded witness from Grant Road, but witness did not remember which of them immediately preceded him. It appeared to witness that the starting signal had not been raised after being lowered for the train or engine that preceded him. Witness was at about Chowpatty level-crossing, when he first noticed the starting signal was lowered. It was raised when he was very near the platform of the Churney Road station. He was running funnel foremost. The train or engine that immediately preceded him had left the Churney Road station when he got to the Chowpatty level crossing. It had passed the starting signal and witness could see nothing of it. He had been on the B. B. & C. I. Railway a little over two months. He had driven the engine up to Colaba about ten times during the two months. The 26th ultimo was the only occasion on which he noticed the Churney Road starting signal was lowered when it ought to have been at danger. Witness did not know who was in the cabin at the Churney Road station on that occasion. He did not report the matter to the Churney Road station-master, when he stopped there, nor had he reported the matter to anyone since then. He had not pulled up at the station when he saw the signal raised. If witness had not been stopping at the station, he would then have considered that the signal was lowered for him. As he had to stop at the station he did not consider the signal lowered for him. It made no difference to him. He considered it a gross piece of neglgence on the part of the signal man. He told Dolben about it on the 3rd instant. That was the first time he had seen him since the 26th ultimo.

The cross-examination of witness was reserved.

Mr. Byrne then addressed the jury on behalf of Dolben. He said that the object of the present inquiry was to ascertain the cause of death which had occurred and they (the jury) would be called upon to say as to whether in their opinion any blame attached to any person or persons in reference to the deaths which had been caused. What he wished to do was just to go through the evidence in detail and draw their attention on the salient points. They had followed the inquiry very closely and had shown great interest in it by frequently putting to witnesses intelligent questions. He thought that only two theories could possibly be raised in connection with this case. One theory was that the accident was caused by the starting signal No. 1 on the Churney Road station having been let off, when the driver of the light engine passed it; the other theory was that the driver omitted to notice the signal. Mr. Byrne then commented upon the evidence at some length. He submitted that the only evidence which was worthy of credence was that of Dolben, who gave an absolutely straightforward and true account of what had happened before the collision took place. He was borne out in a remarkable manner by the driver Silva and also by his own fireman. As against this they had to weigh the evidence of six men from the Churney Road station, and the two Ramas, whose evidence was very contradictory. The evidence of the guard was shown to be false in two most important particulars, and his evidence ought to be absolutely rejected. As regards Dolben's evidence Mr. Byrne remarked that he was not in a position to see anything on the line until it was too late. It was clear that the right hand side of the engine was sufficiently looked after by his first fireman. This was a very unfortunate circumstance that there was a large coal tender on the front of the engine which prevented him from looking over the line ahead. The position of the tender as well as the heavy curve, and the fact of the Sonapore signal having been shut out by the dark trees, were the circumstances which made it so very difficult for him to look ahead. He contended that the whole of the evidence clearly showed that so far as his client was concerned, he was not to blame for the accident and he should not be visited with the results of it. He confidently submitted that the probabilities of the case were on his side and the jury would take the same view which he had taken.

Further inquiry was adjourned to Monday next.

THE CITY MORTALITY.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending, at 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results :—

Wards.	Plague. Attacks.	Deaths.	Deaths from all Causes.
A Upper, Middle and Lower Colaba, Fort Southern, Fort Northern and Esplanade	6	1	5
B Mandvi, Chukla, Umarkhadi and Dongri	3	2	23
C Market, Dhobi Talao, Fanaswadi, Bhuleshwar, Khara Talao and Kumbharwada	7	3	13
D Khetwadi, Girgaum, Chowpatty, Walkeshwar and Mahalakshmi	3	1	11
E Mazagon, Tarwadi, Nal Nazpada, Kamatipura, Tardeo, Byculla and 1st Nagpada	6	6	32
F Parel, Sewree and Sion	1	4	12
G Mahim and Worlee	2	1	6
Water Division	0	0	0
Non-Resident and Unknown	0	0	0
Hospitals	0	8	22
Total	28	26	124
Total plague deaths to date	46,247	40,329	
Same date last year	21	24	97

THE WEATHER.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 8 A.M., ON FRIDAY, THE 19TH OF MAY, 1899.

SUMMARY.

The pressure changes of the past 24 hours have been small and irregular. Readings are lowest in the north and highest in Ceylon. Gradients are steep to slight.

Winds are very variable in direction and the force has been strong to a gale in Gujarat and fresh to light elsewhere. This morning the wind velocity was 24 miles an hour at Bhuj and Jamnagar, 18 at Karachi, Neemuch, Indore and Surat, 16 at Bellary and 14 at Deesa.

The maximum temperature is from 4° to 7° in excess of the normal at Madras, Coimbatore and Negapatam, and the minimum 7° to 11° in excess at Lahore and Jacobabad. The highest temperature in the shade was 117° at Jacobabad and the lowest 64° at Bangalore.

Humidity has increased in several places and the skies are cloudy to overcast in many places.

Very heavy rain has fallen at Colombo (5·55 inches), heavy at Negapatam (2·40 inches), light to moderate showers at Agra, Khandwa, Raipur, Cochin, Bangalore, Masulipatam, Madras and Trichinopoly, and a few drops at Secunderabad, Calicut and Indore.

An area of abnormally low pressure lies over the greater part of the country lying to the south of latitude 21° and also on and off the West Coast in the Arabian Sea, and the weather over the whole of that area is in an unsettled condition and will remain more or less cloudy. The baric gradients are very steep between Nagapatam and Colombo, and strong squally winds, with rain, are likely to blow there. Pressure is comparatively low at Madras and indicates suspicious weather conditions off that coast in the Bay. The sea is reported to be rising at Cochin and is slight at Veraval, Ratnagiri, Karwar and Colombo. The weather conditions are favourable for rain in Ceylon, on the Malabar Coast and at Trichinopoly and Negapatam. In the Madras Presidency and the Central and North-West Provinces, dust-storms with or without rain are likely. In the Bombay Presidency the weather conditions are gradually becoming favourable for local rain.

G. L. TOWERS,
Meteorological Reporter for Western India.

THE BURST AT CEYLON.

SIMLA, MAY 19.

Friday : The barometer is generally changed slightly and pressure conditions are similar to those reported yesterday. A depression has shown over the Western Desert, and an irregularly shaped tongue of low pressure extends south-eastwards from Western Rajputana to the Madras Coast. Winds are practically unchanged, except in Colombo, where direction has shifted to East-north-east. The winds are cyclonic over the Western Desert, light and variable within th low pressure band, south-easterly to easterly in Burma and Northern India, and westerly to northerly over the Peninsula. The rest is cloudy to overcast on the west coast of the Peninsula, and the pressure, wind, and weather changes at Colombo, where there was a half inch of rain in less than 24 hours, suggest the appearance of those unsettled conditions which ordinarily precede the first advance of the monsoon. Rain has fallen generally in Burma and East Bengal, and scattered rain is reported from other parts of Bengal, some districts in the North-West Provinces. The North-West Himalayas, the Central Provinces, and south of the Peninsula, Akyab, Chittagong, Benares and Negapatam report about two and Lashio and Trichinopoly about one inch of rain. The mean temperature is higher than usual in Assam, the Punjab, Sind, Rajputana, West Coast, and Bombay Deccan, and is generally lower than usual elsewhere. The highest maximum is 117 degrees at Jacobabad.

THERMOMETER READINGS.

THURSDAY NIGHT.—MAY 18.

10 p.m.	84·2

FRIDAY.—MAY 19.

6 a.m.	82·5
10 a.m.	87·5
2 p.m.	87·5
6 p.m.	87·4

THE SUPERSESSION OF STAFF CORPS OFFICERS.

As stated last week, a Parliamentary paper, moved or by Sir Seymour King, has been issued, giving "Copies of Correspondence to date relating to the Recommendations made by the Government of India in order to prevent the Supersession of Staff Corps Officers by those in the Line (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 172 of Session 2 of 1895)." The most important document of the series—a despatch from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council, No. 92 (Military), dated Dec. 2, 1897—was published in last week's issue, and in our leader we gave the important parts of a despatch from the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary of State, dated April 21, 1897. With this despatch was enclosed the following letter ;—

From Major-General G. de C. Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department (No. 4940 A. "Probationers" ; dated Simla, Nov. 2, 1896).

In reply to Military Department letter No. 2148 A., dated July 30, 1896, inquiring, with reference to petitions received from certain officers of the Staff Corps relative to the question of their promotion, whether the Commander-in-Chief supports the prayer of these officers, and, if so, what proposals His Excellency would recommend for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, I have the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to convey the following remarks.

The receipt of these numerous petitions (272 more are herewith forwarded), shows that the measure of relief granted by Her Majesty's Government in 1895, viz., a step of temporary rank to majors and captains of the Staff Corps appointed commandants and to captains appointed second-in-command of Native regiments, has failed to satisfy the general body of the Staff Corps officers for the following reasons :—

(*a*) it can only benefit a minority, and has only benefited about 15 per cent of the majors and captains in the Staff Corps ;

(*b*) it has introduced an element of supersession in the Staff Corps itself ;

(*c*) while the supersession of junior Staff Corps officers by those of the British service still continues.

2. As regards (*a*) according to the Army List of July 1, 1896, there were 1,021 majors and captains in the Staff Corps on that date. There being 173 regiments of Native cavalry and infantry, giving 173 commands and 175 seconds in command, it is only possible for 348 officers out of the 1,021 to benefit, or about 33 per cent. The greater number of these appointments, however, are, and will continue to be, filled by lieutenant-colonels and even by colonels, and from July 1 Army List it will be seen that only 142 officers, or about 15 per cent., have actually benefitted.

As regards (*b*), it will perhaps be sufficient to illustrate the supersession in the Staff Corps itself, to instance the cases of Major (Temporary Lieutenant Colonel) Farrant, 11th Madras Infantry, and Captain (Temporary Major) Taylor, 30th Madras Infantry. The former officer has superseded 165 majors and the latter 376 captains of their own service.

As regards (*c*), from a statement prepared in this department it appears that the junior majors and captains of the British and Infantry regiments, the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, serving in India had, on July 1, an average service of 17 years and 10 months, and 8 years and 8 1-2 months respectively. The retardation of promotion in the British Service anticipated by the Secretary of State for India in paragraph 4 of his despatch No. 63, dated May 31, 1894, does not appear to have taken place, and the supersession of junior officers of the Staff Corps still continues.

3. Sir George White accordingly supports the prayer of the petitioners, and again recommends that the proposal contained in paragraph 2 of this department letter No. 5494 A, dated September 10, 1894, should be submitted for the very favourable consideration of her Majesty's Government—namely that while retaining the present periods which qualify for promotion, every officer promoted captain in completing 11 years' service and every officer promoted major on completing 20 years' service, should receive an antedate of one year in each of those grades. This is the only measure Sir George White can suggest as likely to afford satisfaction to the petitioners without increasing the military budget, and should hereafter the anticipated retardation of promotion in the British service take place any inequality between the promotion in the two services could be readjusted.

It is noteworthy that, following the above letter, a list of the petitioners (272) is published arranged under the various commands.

Enclosed in the despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India, No. 92 (Military), Dec. 2, 1897, were four letters. The first was as follows :—

M 4005. India Office, June 29, 1897.

SIR,—With reference to the correspondence ending with War Office letter, No. 7069-1477, of Jan. 29, 1896, I am directed by the Secretay of State for India in Council to forward herewith, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War, copy of a Despatch in which the Government of India renew their proposal that Staff Corps officers on promotion to major and captain of the prescribed periods of service should in each case have their promotion antedated by one year.

In the above-quoted letter the Secretary of State for War, anticipating that the general retardation of promotion which had occurred in 1894 would still continue, declined to accede to Sir H. Fowler's recommendation of this proposal. It is now pointed out that this anticipation has not been realised, and that the supersession of junior officers of the Staff Corps still continues.

In these circumstances, Lord George Hamilton, concurring in the views of his predecessor, desires to support the recommendation of the Government of India, and trust that the Secretary of State for War may now find himself able to accept their proposal.—I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, War Office. (Sd.) HORACE WALPOLE.

The second was the following, from the War Office :—

No. 7088-1505. War Office, London, S. W., Sept. 20, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 29, 1897, M 4005, in which the Secretary of State for India in Council again supports the recommendation of the Government of India that Staff Corps officers on promotion to major and captain should receive one year's antedate to their commissions.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that the subject has received the very careful consideration of the Secretary of State for War, in conjunction with the Commander-in-Chief, and, after reviewing all the circumstances of the case, it appears that the reasons already specified in the letter from this department of Jan. 29, 1896, for refusing to accede to the proposal antecede still hold good, and therefore the Marquess of Lansdowne feels obliged to adhere to the previous decision.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) G. LAWSON.

The Under-Secretary of State for India.

The third enclosure was a letter to the War Office from Major-General Newmarch, M 9895, September 25, 1897, asking, should there be no objection, to be furnished with the calculations upon which the opinion is based that the reasons for refusing to accede to the recommendation made by the Government of India in 1894 still hold good.

The last was the War Office letter of October 16, of which we printed last week the latter part, referring to Captain and Infantry promotion. The first part of that letter ran as follows :—

No. 7088-1507. War Office, London, S.W., Oct. 16, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of Sir O. Newmarch's letter of Sept. 27, M. 9895, asking for the statistics upon which his lordship has felt unable to concur in the proposal for the promotion of Field Officers' vacancies in the Indian Staff Corps to the ranks of captain and major should when they take place be antedated one year.

In reply, I am to state, for Lord George Hamilton's information, that in the Royal Artillery, which has a large corps most nearly resembles the Indian Staff Corps, the average rate of promotion during the last three years has been as follows, the periods being those which have elapsed since the officer's first commission :—

	To Captain. Years.	Months.	To Major. Years.	Months.
1894	9	5	17	9
1895	10	0	18	2
1896	10	6	18	2

And it is estimated that for the three subsequent years the rate will be—

	To Captain. Years.	Months.	To Major. Years.	Months.
1897	10	10	18	5
1898	11	1	18	10
1899	11	4	19	3

In the Royal Engineers, which though not equal in size to the Royal Artillery, is also a large corps with one line of promotion, the rate of promotion has averaged—

	To Captain. Years.	Months.	To Major. Years.	Months.
1894	9	2	19	10
1895	9	7	19	11
1896	10	5	15	8

And is calculated to be in—

	To Captain. Years.	Months.	To Major. Years.	Months.
1897	11	0	18	5
1898	11	0	17	5
1899	11	0	17	8

* There are 2 seconds in command in the Central India Horse and Corps of Guides.

b Cavalry regiments purposely excluded, as promotion in them is much faster.

c No. 55 of April 21, 1897.

THE RECENT SOUDAN OPERATIONS.

THE Queen has been pleased to approve the grant of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field to the undermentioned soldiers, in recognition of their services during the recent operations in the Soudan ;—

Royal Engineers.—Lance-Corp. R. H. Lewis.

The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment).—Sergt. A. Nicklin (since promoted second lieutenant in the Oxfordshire Light Infy.).

Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's).—Private A. Cameron.

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.—Private Findlay Cameron, and not Private A. Cameron, as stated in the *London Gazette* of Nov. 15, 1898.

Erratum.—The names of the undermentioned soldiers have been awarded the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field, in recognition of their services in the Soudan, are as now described, and not as in the *London Gazette* of Nov. 15, 1898 :—

Royal Engineers.—Sapper W. H. Brown.

Scots Guards.—Sergt. A. Russell, Sergt. George Hilton.

Buffs (East Kent Regiment).—Colour-Sergt. A. R. L. Keiham.

The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry).—Sergt. A. F. Handley.

Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's).—Colour-Sergt. J. McEwan, Corp. J. R. Lawrie.

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.—Colour-Sergt. T. E. Mackenzie.

Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers).—Colour-Sergt. J. Teague, Corp. M. Mullen.

Army Service Corps.—Staff-Sergt. J. J. Burke.

Staff Corps.—Sergt. G. M. Osborne.

Royal Army Medical Corps.—First-Class Staff-Sergt. J. N. Hirst, First-Class Staff-Sergt. F. Crudice, Sergt. A. T. Meek.

AFFAIRS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

THE Transvaal Volksraad assembled on Monday, May 1. The President, in his speech, said that the Republic was at peace with all external Powers. He hoped it would soon be possible to draw attention to certain proposals which he wished to make regarding the franchise, underground mining rights, and the Dynamite Question. The Volksraad was earnestly asked to give authority for the appointment of a State Financier for the Republic. Adverting to trade, the President said that it was improving. The Netherlands Railway Company had repaid 2,000,000l. of their indebtedness, whereby a State loan was rendered unnecessary for the present. Serious consideration was then invited for a draft constitution law. Rinderpest had destroyed 746,500 cattle, but had now been stamped out. A scheme to purchase farms for irrigation purposes would be submitted.

The full text of the petition recently forwarded by the heads of the mining industry on the Rand to the Transvaal Government is published. The miners insist on the franchise, and this, it appears, is the point which is vital. The language of the memorialists is temperate enough, and, while they recapitulate the various grievances to which the mining industry is subject, in the way of maladministration and excessive burdens, they evince no disposition to make excessive demands. But they declare that the majority of their fellow-townsmen at Johannesburg will absolutely refuse to be satisfied until they are granted some of the elementary rights of self-government which those who live in an English community expect almost as a matter of course. In reference to the Coolie Question they say :—

We well appreciate the dangers of uncontrolled, indiscriminate immigration of the lower class of Indian Chinese, and other coloured races, and the necessity for provision for sanitary control, and shall be most willing to aid the Government in the above objects; but we consider it impossible for us to intervene in this matter, which is governed by the London Convention with the British Government. We suggest that, for the purpose of guarding against the dangers referred to, this matter be explained to the Imperial Government as part of the whole scheme for a settlement of the differences, and as claiming, therefore, an especially favourable consideration, for in the success of this scheme all who desire peace and prosperity in this country must be deeply concerned and willing to co-operate on generous lines. We suggest that this representation be made in such a manner as may be deemed least calculated to provoke unfavourable comment or offend susceptibilities in any quarter, and that the suggestion be viewed by all parties in its true proportions as one part of the whole scheme of settlement. Unless so viewed we should be unable to put ourselves forward in a matter at issue between the two

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

BOMBAY MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 19.

SINCE writing under last Friday's date in regard to the signallers' strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, there has been a steady, continuous improvement in the goods traffic, which has almost assumed its normal conditions. This is satisfactory, and should reassure the minds of those dealers who have felt at all disconcerted on account of the strike. The Cotton market has been quiet, with a moderate amount of purchases reported on account of both the local mills and exporters. Wheat and Seeds have been generally steady, though there has been a tendency in prices to move in a downward direction. In Exchange there has been but little doing, and rates, as compared with last Friday's, show a falling away of 1-16d. in Bank, and 1-32d. in Private Paper. The money market is steady in tone. At the opening of the current week the feeling in Government Paper was inclined to be weak, but, rates steadied a bit afterwards, and close this evening on a par with those of last Friday for 3 1-2 per cents, and 1-2 per cent higher for 3 per cents. Freights have been a dull market, and rates show no material change. Imports are quiet but steady in tone.

MONEY.—The Bank of Bombay Return for the week ended on Saturday last, showed the following changes :—

Public Deposits at the	Head Office..Inc.	Rs.	14,08,404
,, ,, ,,	Branches...Inc.	,,	1,74,044
Other ,, ,,	...Dec.	,,	15,72,871
Government Securities	Unchanged.		
Other authorised ,,	Unchanged.		
Loans	...Dec.	,,	5,44,747
Bills Discounted and Purchased	...Inc.	,,	39,184
Balances with other Banks	...Inc.	,,	29,550
Cash	...Inc.	,,	2,42,631

Against the preceding week's diminution in the Cash Balance of the Presidency Bank of 18 1-4 lakhs at 92 3-4 lakhs, there was an increment last week amounting to some 2 1-2 lakhs, at 95 lakhs. To Public Deposits at the Head Office, and at the Branches, there were additions of 14 lakhs and 1 3-4 lakh, respectively. In Private Deposits there was a falling off to the extent of 15 3-4 lakhs. Loans were 5 1-2 lakhs less. Bills Discounted and Purchased were 1-4 lakh higher, and the Balances with other Banks were greater to a like extent.

Statement of the affairs of the Bank as on 13th May, 1899 :—

LIABILITIES.

	Rs.
Capital	1,00,00,000
Reserve Funds	70,00,000
Public Deposits at Head Office	13,73,975
Do. do. at Branches	51,41,001
Other Deposits	3,00,59,520
Post Bills	4,205
Credits undrawn	17,29,071
Rs...	6,09,08,073

ASSETS.

	Rs.
Government Securities	1,04,03,384
Other authorised Securities	33,24,511
Credits on Government and other authorised Securities	79,99,622
Loans on do. do.	1,72,05,645
Bills Discounted and Purchased	1,17,09,038
Dead Stock	4,22,745
Stamps and Stationery	28,321
Billion	1,16,503
Balances with other Banks	95,17,804
Cash	
Rs.....	6,09,08,073

Meanwhile the feeling in the market is one of steadiness. The Bank of Bombay rate is unchanged, at 6 per cent; and that in the open market is 5 per cent.

EXCHANGE opened steady in tone last mail day at 1s. 3 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic, 1s. 4d. for Demand, and 1s. 4 1-8d for three months' sight Credits. A few of the latter were reported, but for Bank Paper there was no enquiry, business having been very limited. Rates were steady on Monday at 1s. 3 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 4 1-8d for three months' sight Credits, at which level they remained throughout the day, without much being reported done either way. Quiet but steady the following day rates were given at 1s. 3 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic, 1s. 4d. for Demand, and 1s. 4 5-32d. for three months' sight Credits. The latter were scarce, but Bank Paper was done to a moderate extent. The market continued quiet but steady in tone on Wednesday at 1s. 3 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand and 1s. 4 1-8d for three months' sight Credits. Rates remained at this level throughout the day, without much business passing. Yesterday the market was quieter at 1s 3 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 4 1-8d. for three months, sight Credits. A little was reported done in the former and Bills at 3 months' sight afterwards became saleable at 1s. 4 3-32d., at which a moderate amount was placed. Rates were given to-day at 1s. 3 15-16d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, at which there was no enquiry; and at 1s. 4 3-32d., for three months' sight Credits at which but a moderate amount of business was reported, and the market closed steady as follows :—

Bank Bills on Demand	1s. 3 15-16d.	per Rupee.
Do. Telegraphic	1s. 3 15-16d.	,,
Credits 3 months' sight	1s. 4 3-32d.	,,
Francs	1. 09 1-4	,,

GOVERNMENT PAPER was quiet but steady at opening last mail day, at 101 5-16 and 101 3-8 for Cash and the Settlement, respectively, for 3 1-2 per Cents, with 95, nominal, for 3 per cents. The market continued quiet in tone on Monday at 101 5-16 for Cash, for 3 1-2 per Cents, and 101 3-8 for the settlement; Threes remained at 95 nominal. Rates were given on Tuesday at 101 1-2 and 101 9-16 for Cash and the Settlement, respectively, for 3 1-2 per Cents, in a quiet but steady market; for Threes 95 was still quoted. On Wednesday quotations were unchanged at 101 1-2 and 101 9-16 for 3 1-2 per cents, for Money and Accounts, respectively with 95 for Threes. Rates declined 1-16 per cent yesterday, to 101 7-16 and 101 1-2 for Cash and the Settlement, respectively, for 3 1-2 per cent; Threes were unchanged. There was a further decline in quotations to-day to 101 3-8 and 101 7-16 for Cash and the Settlement, respectively, for 3 1-2 per cents; Threes were 1-2 per cent lower, at 94 1-2.

SHARES.—The movement in prices during the week has not been great, and as much in favour of sellers as of buyers, the changes shown in our revised list being an allowance of Rs. 20, in James Greaves; of Rs. 5 in Mahalaxmee; and a decline of Rs. 25, in Standard; of Rs. 15, in Southern Mahratta; of Rs. 10 each, in Imperial Cotton and Ripon; of Rs. 5 each, in Manockjee Petit; Oriental and Queen. In Presses New Indian are Rs. 6 1-2 lower.

In miscellaneous shares, Alcock Ashdown are Rs. 30 higher; of Rs. 10 in Oriental Government Security; of Rs. 5 in Badham Pile; of Rs. 2 1-2, in Port Canning; and of Rs.[illegible] in Phillips, while on the other hand, Bombay Burmah. Trading, have declined. Rs. 100 in the 1st Issue and Rs. 20 in the second; and Treacher & Co., Rs. 7 1-2. In Banks, Bank of Bangal, have advanced Rs. 10 and Bank of Bombay Rs. 2 1-2.

IMPORTS.

PIECE-GOODS.—There has been a moderate enquiry for grey goods, with prices generally unchanged. Standard makes of shirtings and low and medium qualities of mulls have attracted good attention. Up-country buyers are operating very sparingly, holders show willingness to sell. Stocks are reported to be the same as before. In Bleached goods there is an enquiry for Nainsookhs and Mulls, Shirtings of low and medium makes are in demand; prices are well maintained. There has been no change to speak of in Dyed, Local, Printed, and Turkey-Red goods. The clearances of imported goods from the bazaar during the week have been some 3,000 packages; and of Local, about 1,300 bales.

YARNS.—A good demand for China markets is reported, but there has been no improvement in rates. At closing the market is steady in tone, with official quotations given as follows :—

Twist 1	No. 8s	Mule, As. 3	to	3 1-2 per lb.
,,	,, 10s	,, 3	,,	3 5-8 ,,
,,	,, 12s	,, 3 3-8	,,	4 3-8 ,,
,,	,, 16s	,, 3 1-2	,,	4 1-2 ,,
,,	,, 20s	,, 3 5-8	,,	4 5-8 ,,
,,	,, 24s	,, 4 1-8	,,	5 ,,
,,	,, 30s	,, 4 3-4	,,	5 1-2 ,,
,,	,, 40s	,, 6	,,	6 1-2 ,,
,,	,, 40s	,, 7	,,	7 1-2 ,,

METALS.—Yellow metal and Braziers' Copper are 4 ans. per cwt. higher, at Rs.48-8-0 and Rs. 59-12-0 per. cwt. respectively; and Swedish Bar Iron is Re. 1 per candy lower, at Rs. 54 per candy.

COALS.—The market has been quiet, not to say dull, and but few transactions have been reported. A small line of Powell's, ready, was sold at Rs. 18 1-4 per ton. We quote alongside :—

	Per Ton. Rs.
Welsh Hartley	16 1-2
West Do.	17 1-2
Australian	Nil
Powell's	18 1-4
Cardiff	Nil
Japan	Nil
Singareni	Nil
Dishergur Bengal	15
Mulé's Navigation Bengal	14
Jardine's Navigation Bengal	14
Seerpore Bengal	14 1-2

EXPORTS.

COTTON.—The market for this staple has been quiet but steady in tone during the past week. Shippers have operated moderately, and the mills have done likewise. Forward quotations show a falling off, Rs. 125 per candy being quoted this evening for good Bhownuggur, for May delivery. The market closes with a steady feeling, and a fair enquiry.

The following are to-day's quotations for full-pressed Cotton with the equivalents in sterling, cost, and freight to Liverpool via Canal, without Commission, viz. :—

	Per Candy, Per lb. C. & F.
Bengal, Fine	Rs 127—3 9-32d.
Do. Fully good	,, 121—2 11-16d.
Do. Good	,, 115—2 19-32d.
Selaee, Fine	,, 130—3 13-16d.
Do. Fully Good	,, 125—3 5-8d.
Khandesh, Fully Good	,, 126—3 3-4d.
Oomra, Fully Good	,, 122—2 27-32d.
Dholera, Fine	,, 127—2 15-16d.
Do. Fully Good	,, 127—2 15-32d.
Do. Good	,, 121—2 23-32d.
S. U. Dharwar, Good	,, 145—3 1-16d.
Western India, Fine	,, 129—2 15-16d.
Broach, Fine	,, 155—3 7-32d.

The arrivals of New Crop Cotton into Bombay this season, as compared with last, are as follows :—

	Season. 1898-99.	Season. 1897-98.
	F. P. Bales.	F. P. Bales.
Khandeish	355,000	302,500
Barsee and Nuggur	93,500	80,000
Berar	594,000	380,500
Hingunghat	11,500	9,000
Dholleras	213,000	158,500
Broach	108,500	137,000
Bengals	231,000	178,500
Persian and Sind	6,000	14,000
Compta and Dharwar	25,500	23,500
Western	1,500	1,000
Total.	1,039,500	1,284,500

The movements of Cotton to date show the following comparisons with the previous two years :—

Receipts.	1899.	1898.	1897
	Below	Rates.	Rates.
For the week	40,048	75,034	47,388
From 1st Jan. to 18th May 1899	14,21,389	11,71,260	10,12,899
Clearances to Great Britain and Continent.			
For the week	28,930	30,949	17,356
From 1st Jan. to 18th May 1899	3,76,311	2,70,281	3,23,923
Clearances to China, Japan, Calcutta, &c.			
For the week	30,550	36,753	16,240
From 1st Jan. to 18th May 1899	2,80,169	1,88,263	2,60,811

WHEAT.—There has been a partial decline in prices in a somewhat dull market. We quote :—

White Pessy, 91 per cent	Rs. 27	per candy.
Do 85 per cent	,, 23	,,
No. 1 Club Delhi	,, 3-13-0	per cwt.
Red Delhi	,, 3-10-0	,,
Hard Yellow	,, 26	per candy.
Red Ahmedabad	,, 25	,,
Hard Red	,, 24	,,

SEEDS.—A small businss has been done, in a steady market. Prices are as follows :—

Linseed	Rs.	6-0-6 per cwt.
Rapeseed, Yellow Gonserat	,,	6-0-0 ,, ,,
Do. Do. Cawnpore	,,	5-15-0 ,, ,,
Do. Red Do.	,,	5-5-0 ,, ,,
Gingelly, White	,,	37-0-0 per candy.
Do. Mixed	,,	34-0-0 ,, ,,

The comparative imports of wheat and seeds are as under :—

	1899. Cwts.	1898. Cwts.	1897. Cwts.
Wheat for the week	274,060	887,918	34,108
Do. from 1st Jan. to 18th May	2,265,802	4,324,329	480,352
Linseed for the week	71,037	89,729	34,203
Do. from 1st Jan. to 18th May	1,414,402	1,367,985	197,469
Rapeseed for the week	90,467	86,020	85,610
Do. from 1st Jan. to 18th May	902,695	901,203	530,529
Gingellyseed for the week	12,947	13,824	9,731
Do. from 1st Jan. to 18th May	974,203	1,093,700	363,306

The clearances of Wheat and Seeds to Great Britain and Continent are as follows :—

	1899. Cwts.	1898. Cwts.	1897. Cwts.
Wheat for the week	203,400	420,052	.....
Do. from 1st January to 18th May	1,300,479	1,801,367	311
Linseed for the week	171,656	172,453	28,989
Do. from 1st January to 18th May	1,304,188	1,176,490	190,384
Rapeseed for the week	116,244	89,748	70,406
Do. from 1st January to 18th May	808,734	818,181	319,001
Gingellyseed for the week	14,701	100,756	33,555
Do. from 1st January to 18th May	1,259,786	1,113,223	337,382

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE OVERLAND SUMMARY.

(Compiled for despatch by the Weekly Mail to Europe.)

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5-6 INDIAN TELEGRAMS.
7-8 The Railway Strike.
9 Death of an Old Parsee Actor—Labour on the G. I. P. Railway.
10 The Simla Season—The Mahableshwar Week.
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17 Dr. Leumann's Inoculation Report.
18 SPORTING NEWS : Man Eating Tigers and Panthers in Hyderabad—Waler vs. Arab—The Bombay Hunt—Alleged Assault on a European at Calcutta.
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20 Indian Railway Projects—Bombay Port Trust.
21 Municipal Standing Committee—The Indian Anti-Vivisection Society—BENGAL—MADRAS—N.-W. PROVINCES, OUDH AND PUNJAB.
22 MISCELLANEOUS—Evening Party to Lieutenant G. Warneford—Presidency Plague Mortality—Bombay Season Reports.
23 OFFICIAL GAZETTES : Bombay Government Orders—Government of India Orders.
24 Arrival of the Overland Mails of the 18th April—Bank of Bombay Advertisement.
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE—Bombay Market Report—Bombay Price Current—FREIGHTS.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for Week ended 6th May, 1899, on 451 Miles open.

	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings (Estimated.)	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total Traffic for the week	89,070	3,20,000	4,000	4,13,000
Or per mile of Railway	153	694	9	896
For previous 17 weeks of half year,	13,80,851	41,23,272	76,819	55,35,932
Total for 18 weeks ..	14,69,851	45,43,272	80,819	60,28,932
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	82,550	4,01,538	1,526	4,85,614
Per mile of Ry. do.	17.	871	3	1,053
Total to corresponding date do.	10,29,575	45,33,312	89,641	56,63,478

Decrease for the week ..... Rs. 72,614
Increase to date ..... ,, 4,36,474

PALANPUR-DEESA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for Week ended 6th May 1899, on 17·28 Miles open.

	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings (Estimated.)	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	300	400	...	700
On per mile of Railway	18	23	...	41
For previous 17 weeks of half-year.	6,303	6,282	22	12,607
Total for 18 weeks.	6,603	6,682	22	13,307
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	188	576	...	763
Per mile of Ry. do.	11	33	..	44
Total to corresponding date do.	2,934	7,711	150	10,795

Increase for the week ..... Rs 62
Ditto to date ..... ,, 2,572

GODHRA-RUTLAM-NAGDA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for Week ended 6th May, 1899, on 141·14 Miles open.

	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts	Other Earnings (Estimated.)	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	3,000	31,200	50	34,250
Or per mile of Railway	21	221	1	243
For previous 17 weeks of half year	52,743	4,03,753	2,161	4,55,657
Total for 18 weeks ...	55,743	4,31,953	2,211	4,89,907
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	3,340	22,154	42	35,535
Per mile of Ry do.	24	226	..	254
Total to corresponding date do.	47,012	4,80,048	2,612	5,09,702

Decrease for the week ..... Rs. 1,305
Ditto to date ..... ,, 19,795

INDIAN MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Week ending 6th May, 1899.

Description.	1899.	1898.	Inc. for the week.	Dec. for the week.	Aggregate Inc.	Aggregate Dec.
Miles Open ...	1,058	988	...	...	...	...
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers	56,075	43,439	12,636	...	1,01,414	...
Parcels, &c.	1,17,282	1,03,927	33,755	...	2,79,166	...
Goods ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other earnings ...	5,467	7,935	...	2,468	..	16,811
Total for week	1,93,824	1,55,031	43,823	...	...	...
Aggregate ..	29,33,813	25,69,044	...	...	3,64,769	...

FOREIGN TELEGRAM REPORTS.

Latest dates of foreign messages received at Bombay from the United Kingdom during 24 hours ending at 8 p.m. of the 19th May 1899.

[Difference in Longitude allowed for.]

Via.	Latest Dates			Time occupied in transmission.	
	D.	H.	M	Hours.	Minutes.
Turkey	18	4	40 p.m.	19	20
Teheran	19	2	10 p.m.	0	47
Suez	19	3	50 p.m.	0	37

Time occupied in the transmission of messages to Bombay during the 24 hours ending at 8 p.m. of 19 May, 1899.

	Maximum Time.		Minimum Time.	
	H.	M.	H.	M.
From Calcutta	1	10	0	1
,, Karachi	0	47	0	1
,, Madras	1	15	0	1

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

EUROPE.

DEATHS.

CHAPMAN—April 27, N H Chapman, son of Comdr F H Chapman, R N, British Consulate, Vera Cruz, aged 22.
COCKBURN—April 30, Suzy-Gen R. Cockburn, Bengal Med Serv (ret), Talbot sq, Hyde-pk, aged 74.
DENT—April 29, F E G Dent, Fleet paymster R N, son of late Admiral, Ardmore Dent, 1 Westcombe-pk, aged 50.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

APCAR—May 14, at 2, Rainey Park, Ballygunge, the wife of Thomas Seth Apcar, of a son.
TAYLER—May 2, at Jamalpur, the wife of Fred W Tayler, E I R, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

BULL—STANSBURY—May 3, at St Thomas' Church, Dacca by the Rev Franklin, Henry Mathews Bull, of the Reliance Coal Company, Barakur, to Constance Emma, second daughter of C Montague Stansbury, of Dacca.

DEATHS.

COMBERLAND—May 12, at Calcutta, Alfred Hope Cumberland, aged 50 years.
CRESWELL—May 11, at Mussoorie, Emma Mary, the beloved wife of Lieutenant-Colonel E W Creswell, Royal Engineers.
HAWKINS—May 7, at the Golaverry Bridge, Yemshe, Indur District, Deccan, Constance Muriel Maud, the dearly loved infant daughter of Percy and Maud Hawkins.
LEE—May 11, at the Railway Hotel, Cawnpore, Joseph William Lee, of Manafon, Montgomeryshire, after a long and painful illness, the effects of a paralytic stroke.
LITSTER—May 12, at Simla, Mary, relict of Captain Archibald Litster, 78th Highlanders, in her 68th year.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** ALL communications intended for publication in our columns should be addressed to the Editor and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1899.

It would be well if the declaimers on the poverty of India could be brought to realise that agricultural indebtedness is by no means confined to this Continent. It is the badge of the cultivator of the soil in every country under the sun. In India there are tests which show that indebtedness is compatible with a steady though slow improvement of the condition of the cultivating class, if the great bulk of the population may be spoken of as a class. Local records show an increase in the number of cattle, in the number and quantity of ploughs, and of country carts; while there is a noticeable improvement in the structure and especially in the roofing of the humble dwellings in which the villagers and the native shopkeepers live. The experience of the late famine, the most considerable in area that has visited India for many years, showed that the land-holding peasantry did not depend on the relief-works. They had resources either in savings or in credit which enabled them to tide over the bad time. They did not even sell there wives' silver ornaments, scarcely any of which found their way to the market. There was a pretty continuous importation of silver during the period covered by the famine, showing that there was a demand for that metal notwithstanding the fall in its value compared to that of the rupee. The people who had to seek relief on works organised by Government were the labourers, landless men who could not find employment when there were no crops to harvest, and were therefore without other resource. When the rain fell and there were fields to till the number on the famine-works rapidly declined. What was no less satisfactory, the ryots were able to pay their land assessment without difficulty. We have the testimony of Sir Anthony Macdonnell to the fact that the applications for postponement were few and far between. That certainly would not have been the case in former times when famine made widespread ruin and desolation, the people having no resource and no credit. When, therefore, the agricultural indebtedness of India is spoken of, we must be on our guard against the mistake of supposing that it is an increasing evil. It is equally erroneous to suppose that it is a phenomenon unknown out of India. It is one of the most onerous problems confronting the German Government, harassed by the Socialist propaganda which is invading the country after achieving alarming success in the industrial centres. It is felt in France, though the indebtedness there is that of peasant to peasant, with the result of a healthy transfer business of land. The father adds acre to acre; the children become impoverished and the acres pass away, as they came, to another usurious and acquisitive peasant. In Italy the debt is more frequently to the local merchant. Even there, however, there is no marked dispropriation of the peasantry. It is in America that the curse is specially felt. In the United States, indeed, matters have reached such a pass that a crisis is approaching. It is now pretty well seen that the remarkable movement in support of Mr. Bryan for the Presidency of the United States was not really due to a desire to repudiate gold debts. It was in the main from impatient misery that the agricultural classes of the West and South were prepared to follow any leader who seemed to promise a remedy.

In India, as in America, the only hope of the agriculturist lies in assistance from outside. This need not necessarily be direct State assistance, but it might well be organised under the supervision of the State. As was said by a great authority, "It is not merely cheap and facile credit that is required; it is a credit which must indeed be cheap and facile, in that it shall ever be at hand, but it must be credit which shall only be so obtainable that the act and effort of obtaining it shall educate, discipline, and guide the borrower; it should be granted only to those who have learned to think, to plan, and to save; the method of providing it must teach the lessons of self and mutual help, and suggest the extension of these lessons to matters outside of mere credit; it must be safe, not merely in eliminating the dangers of usury, but in being controlled, heedful and productive . . . . not joint-stock banks merely, still less State banks or banks financed by the State for the mere issue of capital. Mutual Credit Unions are the desideratum; co-operative societies where the isolated learn the value of association, where the ignorant are taught the lessons of business, the reckless learn heedfulness, thrift and prudence, the idle and intemperate return to industry and sobriety." The fact must be accepted that the need to borrow is inseparable from agriculture. This applies of course to the mass of small freeholders and leaseholders. These borrow habitually, seldom for the improvement of their land, frequently from the circumstances of their market, oftenest from seasonal difficulties. Now to improve the credit of these men and lower the interest they have to pay would undoubtedly relieve them greatly. It would render the improvement of their land a profitable operation, it would prevent their being ruined by debt unavoidably incurred through difficulties of season and market; but it would not reduce indebtedness. On the contrary, it is well known from experience that improved credit and cheap money mean increase of agricultural borrowing. The main object, therefore, of any scheme must be that the farmer should profit by such borrowing, and, if possible, that he should borrow from himself. The agricultural class has at one time profits to bank if at another it has loans to take: the one should meet the other. As to the real savings of the farmer, if he owns his land these are best invested thereon. What he ordinarily needs is, as said in Mr. Nicholson's report, "a bank in which he can temporarily place the surplus value of the crops he has sold, and from which he can borrow short term loans for pressing needs while his crop is unsold, or longer term loans for purchase of seed or stock."

Such a bank can only be managed profitably by a system of agriculturists' unions for the purpose, and such a system cannot start fully developed with any prospect of success—it must be worked up to by degrees. As the Report says, "Every one of the systems which have dealt successfully with popular savings, help and credit, has grown out of the smallest beginnings by a slow and painful development." This applies to Benefit and Friendly Societies, Building Societies, real Co-operative Stores, and the like, just as much as to unions like the French Agricultural Association, the *Schulas-Deutsch* or the *Raiffeisen* systems. "The future of rural credit lies with those who being of the people, live among the people, and yet by their intelligence, prescience, and energy are above the people." This is true, but to give such men an opening and moral support is the business of the State. Without the aid of the Department of Agriculture nothing can or will be done either in America or India. That Department must in America invite discussion, suggest methods, offer help, set the public mind fermenting. In India its task would be, through the district agencies, to initiate actual experiment. Such an experiment, for instance, is actually being made in a small Native State of the Punjab, through the enlightened philanthropy of the Mahomedan manager during a minority, under the Political Agent. This agricultural bank, started with a small capital by the State, is actually running efficiently on the depositors' money. Deposits are received at four per cent., loans are made at six per cent. The agriculturist's credit for the loans made under some simple rules upon his ability for the deposits. All this of course means very intimate personal knowledge of individual circumstances, but there should be no difficulty about this for an Agricultural Union. At any rate it is only by such experiments under the auspices of the Agricultural Department, and organised and systematised by the experience and skill of the district officers, that the problem of agricultural reform will ever be successfully grappled with. It must be grappled with if social upheavals are to be avoided. The French Revolution arose out of the misery of the peasant; the Russian revolution is preparing from the same causes. Grave trouble of some kind is threatening the United States of America. What is preparing in India with a growing population pressing on the soil it is difficult to foresee. During the Military Revolt of 1857, the mass of the people were absolutely quiescent, so far as ill-will towards the Government was concerned. Why, then, did all the Upper Provinces become a chaos of disorder? Because the people grasped the disappearance of authority as a chance of squaring accounts with the money-lenders. Record-rooms were sacked, the records torn up, the *banias* were hunted, murdered, forced to give up their deeds and to sign acquittances, lands were recovered with the strong hand. From Robin Hood to Koer Singh, the Arab rebel of 1857, the broken and landless man has always been a danger to the State.

THE mail brings additional details concerning the recent cotton crisis in Lancashire, which show that the County Palatine narrowly escaped being plunged into a great labour dispute which would have nipped the reviving prosperity of the cotton trade in the bud. The agitation amongst the operatives of North and North-East Lancashire, comprising over 300,000 hands, began last year, and in January they applied to the Employers' Association for an advance of 10 per cent. in wages. The demand was founded on the renewed prosperity of the Lancashire trade, but it was met by a direct refusal. The operatives took a ballot, and by a majority of nearly five to one decided they would strike if their application was not favourably entertained. The masters admitted that the trade was more prosperous now than in past years, but very reasonably argued that before they granted increases in wages they should be allowed time to recoup themselves for their losses in the preceding years when trade was bad. A great controversy ranged as to whether actual wages were higher or lower than in 1878. The rate is lower, but this point seems imma

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

EULOGIES ON THE CZAR'S MOTIVE.

THE HAGUE, MAY 18.

The Peace Conference assembled here to-day.

Baron G. de Staal, the Russian representative, has been appointed the President.

Various speeches were made eulogising the magnanimous motives of the Tsar, and hoping his generous scheme would be realised.

STRIKE OF POSTMEN IN PARIS.

PARIS, MAY 18.

All the postmen in Paris have suddenly gone on strike, owing to a dispute regarding the question of wages.

No letters have been delivered to-day, and business in consequence is generally upset.

The Government is employing soldiers and policemen to do the work, and threaten a wholesale dismissal of the postmen.

THE END OF THE STRIKE.

LONDON, MAY 19.

Advices from Paris state that the postmen have resumed work.

PRESIDENT KRUGER AND SIR A. MILNER.

LONDON, MAY 18.

In the House of Commons, this evening, Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to a question, said that Sir Alfred Milner, with the approval of the Government, had accepted a meeting with President Kruger at Bloemfontein, with a view to settling all difficulties and satisfying the demands of the Uitlanders.

Mr. Chamberlain added that President Kruger stated Sir Alfred Milner's reply went beyond his (the President's) intentions, but he would gladly discuss every proposal in a friendly way.

The meeting between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner at Bloemfontein takes place on the 31st instant. The "Times" describes President Kruger's latest franchise proposals as absolutely inadequate.

SUICIDE OF A COMMANDING OFFICER.

Colonel Sir George Albert de Hochapied Larpent, Commanding the Bedford District, has committed suicide.

THE LEIGH DIVORCE CASE.

The Leigh divorce case, in which Lady Rose Leigh was the respondent and Earl Cottenham the co-respondent, has resulted in a decree *nisi* being granted to the petitioner.

The details of the case are most scandalous.

THE MAILS.

LONDON, MAY 18.

The Bombay mails of the 6th instant arrived at Brindisi, to-day.

DARING ATTACK BY AFRIDIS.

A SWEETMEAT SELLER CARRIED OFF.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SIMLA, MAY 19.

On the night of the 11th May, two sweetmeat-sellers of 27th Punjab Infantry bazaar were attacked by a band of Afridis, a mile from Peshawar cantonment, in British territory. One escaped, but the other was carried off.

SIR BINDON BLOOD.

Major-General Sir Bindon Blood, commanding the Meerut District, arrives here on Tuesday for a short visit.

MILITARY NEWS.

Brigadier-General Reid, commanding the Malakand Moveable Column, has two months' leave from the 26th instant; Colonel Kelly officiating.

Colonel A. Stephen, I.M.S., retires from the Service.

The statement in to-day's issue of your Lahore contemporary, that Surgeon-General Sibthorpe retired last Wednesday, is a mistake; he has been granted a short extension of service, and his successor has not yet been appointed.

THE DEATH SENTENCE UPON SEPOY JHANDA SINGH CONFIRMED.

Confirmation is notified of the death sentence upon Sepoy Jhanda Singh, of the 10th Bengal Infantry, for the murder of Subedar of a the same regiment, by shooting him with his rifle, last February. The Court Martial was held at Shillong.

GAZETTE OF INDIA NOTIFICATIONS.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

The appointments of Messrs. D. McIver as Belgian Consul, Karachi, of W. T. Fee as United States Consul, Bombay, and of Mr. W. F. Bickel, as Swedish Consul, Bombay, are all confirmed from Home.

The rules to regulate the legal practitioners in Berar are published, and come into force at once.

Mr. H. Jowers is posted as First Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent, Rajputana.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

The criminal appeal in the case of the Crown *vs.* Ali Murad Walad Piral is transferred from the Sadar Court, Sind, to the Bombay High Court.

Captains J. F. W. King, I. M. S., and R. W. H. Jackson, also Lieutenant E. W. P. Marriott, A. M. C., are posted for plague duty in Bombay.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Captain Playfair, 1st Hampshires, is confirmed as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General for Musketry, vice Captain Campbell, whose tenure of office has expired.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hawkes, Majors Williamson and Thacwell and Captains Bretherton and Howell each receive a step of promotion in the Commissariat Transport, vice Colonel Rind, retired.

Mr. A. D. Anderson is gazetted Second Lieutenant, Infantry Branch, Indian Army Reserve Officers.

The following retirements are gazetted:—Major-General L. H. E. Tucker, from the 27th ultimo; Major-General E. Mockler, from 15th ultimo; and Colonel A. Stephen from 19th instant.

Major H. B. Thornhill is gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel with effect from the 23rd ultimo; Captain H. L. Custance, Major from 17th instant and Lieutenant J. L. Orr, Captain from 16th instant.

Messrs. Galloway, Sewell, Coode, Szczepanski and O'Grady each receive a step of temporary promotion in the Berar Police, vice Mr. Cotgrave, on leave.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Messrs. W. F. Cockell, G. A. Bennett, and H. C. Sheridan, officiate as First, Second, and Third Assistant Directors-General of the Post Office, from the 26th ultimo.

Lieutenant-Colonel Martin, Assay Master, Bombay, has one year's furlough from the 20th instant, Major Milne being appointed substantively in his place.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Captain F. W. Pirrie, Survey of India, is granted one year's furlough from 1st June.

THE RAILWAY OUTRAGE ON LADIES.

A REWARD OFFERED.

LUCKNOW, MAY 19.

The efforts of the Railway police to discover the perpetrator of the savage attack on two ladies travelling in a railway carriage between Lucknow and Cawnpore having proved unvailing, a reward of Rs. 200 is now offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprit.

SURREY V. AUSTRALIANS.

DETAILS OF MATCH.

ALLAHABAD, MAY 19.

The "Pioneer's" London correspondent under date London, 18th May, wires:—Following upon the rain of Tuesday the wicket at the oval in the match between Surrey and the Australian eleven was difficult, and the results were sensational, the visitors gaining a brilliant victory. Their innings closed for 249, including Kelly, not out 50.

Surrey was completely routed in the second innings also, the last wicket going with the total at 64 only.

The only redeeming feature was the play of the youngster, Hayes, who put up a vigorous 43.

Howell for the Australians has now taken fifteen wickets for 87 runs.

SERIOUS CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST AN OFFICER AND HIS FRIEND.

A LADY IN THE CASE.

CALCUTTA, MAY 19.

At the Police Court, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. Edwards, solicitor, on behalf of Mr. Harry V. Low, assistant at Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Co., obtained a summons under sections 323, 325 and 352, Indian Penal Code, against Mr. R. G. King, Lieutenant, Royal Engineers, employed in the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and Mr. E. C. Trotter, Deputy Examiner, Public Works Department. Mr. Edwards said he had to bring to his Honor's notice one of the most dastardly assaults which had ever taken place in Calcutta, the victim being Mr. Harry Low, of the firm of Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Co., and his assailants Lieut. R. G. King and E. C. Trotter, Deputy Examiner, P.W.D. Accounts. On the evening of the 17th instant, Mr. Low went to see a person at the Dacres Lane. On coming out of the house, about 10 p.m., Mr. Low went down Banstollah Lane which adjoins Dacres Lane, when he was accosted by Mr. Trotter and Lieutenant King. Suddenly Trotter, without any provocation or reason, threatened to assault complainant with the stick he was carrying. He threw up his hand to put aside the blow, whereupon Trotter struck him a side blow across the left eye, inflicting a wound, an inch and a-half in length, which bled profusely. Trotter continued to strike complainant, who endeavoured to defend himself. Lieutenant King came up from behind with a short heavy stick and most unmercifully belaboured Mr. Low across the back and thighs and left arm, rendering his arm absolutely use less. Some people came out from the houses in the vicinity and witnessed the assault on Mr. Low, who was seriously injured and confined to his bed under the treatment of Dr. Caddy.

In reply to his Worship, Mr. Edwards said there was absolutely no reason or provocation of any kind given for the assault. Mr. Low knew the two accused simply to say good morning or good evening to them. It was at 10 o'clock at night, and the lane was a quiet and dark one. From what Mr. Edwards could make out, accused was lying in wait for Mr. Low.

His Worship thought there must be some reason for this assault, and asked who it was that Mr. Low had gone to see in Dacres Lane.

Mr. Edwards replied that Mr. Low had been to the Dacres Lane on a visit to a lady, who also knew Messrs. Trotter and King, but he could assign no reason for this assault.

As Mr. Low was confined to his bed, the summons was made returnable on the 30th instant.

BOMBAY COMMAND ORDERS.

POONA, MAY 19.

Military Works Department—On vacating the appointment of Aide-de-Camp to the General Officer commanding Quetta District, Captain Mallaby, R. E., is posted to the charge of Peshin Division, Military Works.

Commissariat Transport Depot—The undermentioned officer is confirmed in his present appointment from the date specified:—Lieutenant Deas, 19th Bombay Infantry, Deputy Assistant Commissary-General, 2nd Class, on probation, dated 18th April 1898.

Royal Army Medical Corps—Captain MacCarthy is transferred from Bombay District to Poona District

Lieutenant Sherlock, 21st Bombay Infantry, has passed the tests for retention in the Indian Staff Corps.

The undermentioned officers of the Royal Artillery have passed in range finding:—Captain Usborne, 35th Field Battery; Lieutenant Kemble, 22nd Field Battery; Lieutenant Lowis, No. 7 Mountain Battery; Lieutenant Wyatt, No. 7 Mountain Battery; Second Lieutenant Blathway, No. 26 Company, Eastern Division; and Second Lieutenant Yates, No. 18 Company, Southern Division.

Under instructions received from the War Office, it is notified that Lieutenant-Colonel Gunner, R.A., on promotion to that rank from C Battery, R. H. A., has been provisionally posted to command the Auxiliary Artillery at Leith.

Under instructions from the War Office, Lieutenant Bright, 1st Battalion, East Kent Regiment, who has been selected for service with the British Central Africa Protectorate, is directed to proceed to Chiude, and thence to Zamba, and report himself to the Consul-General or officer commanding the troops.

The undermentioned officers have been permitted by her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to return to duty:—Lieutenant-Colonel Reilly, 28th Bombay Pioneers; Captain Levesons-Gower, Governor's Body Guard; and Lieutenant D'Oyly, 19th Bombay Infantry.

The undermentioned officer is granted leave to proceed out of India, on private affairs, under the leave rules for the Staff Corps, the specified period to count from the date of being struck off duty:—Lieutenant Light, Staff Corps, Wing Officer, 14th Bombay Infantry, for one year.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence:—Royal Artillery—Lieutenant Wyatt, No. 7 Mountain Battery, from 15th May to 1st October, on private affairs, out of India; 12th Bombay Infantry—Captain Ransom, District Recruiting Officer, Rajputana and Central India, 30 days, from the date of departure, on privilege leave, out of India; 20th Hussars—Lieutenant Jennings Bromley, from 5th May to 19th October, on medical certificate, granted by the War Office, in extension of leave granted in Bombay Command Order, No. 611, of 1898; Royal Artillery—Lieutenant Dudley, No. 18 Company, Western Division, up to 14th October, on medical certificate, granted by the War Office, in extension; 4th Bombay Rifles—Major Fry, 39 days, on private affairs, granted by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF HEAD-QUARTERS AT POONA.

Bombay Command Head-quarters will be re-established at Poona on the 12th June. All correspondence which cannot reach Mahableshwar by the 9th June should be addressed to Poona as usual.

THE BURMA-CHINESE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

RETURN OF THE NORTHERN PARTY.

RANGOON, MAY 18.

The Northern party of the Burma-Chinese Boundary Commission left Kokang on April 26, and arrived at Bhamo on Tuesday. Lieutenant-Colonel Lloyd, V. C., Army Medical Corps, was in charge on the return journey, Mr. Scott having left for Yunnan on April 26. The return journey was not marked by any special incident. Heavy rains rendered travelling uncomfortable. During the completion of the final arrangements at Kokong, our fofficers got up athletic meetings and assaults at-arms, which were attended by British and Chinese members of the Commission, while the inhabitants of the neighbourhood flocked in, many contests being reserved for them. The relations between members of the commission were most cordial. General Liu became very popular with our officers and men, who gave him an enthusiastic send-off.

The work of the northern party has been completed, and Mr. Scott and his officers deserve warm congratulations on the successful completion of a most difficult task.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

SUEZ, MAY 18.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Grant left here this morning.

MAY 19.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Socotra (extra) left here for Bombay at day light to-day.

PLYMOUTH, MAY 18.

The B. I. S. N. Company's steamer Monora arrived here this morning.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, MAY 18.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed steady. Surats quiet.

Good Bhownuggur, 2 23-32.

The Manchester Market has been firm.

2¾ per cent. Consols 110 5-16

3 per cent. Rentes ..... 102½.

3½ per cent. Sterling Loan ..... 116.

2½ per cent. Rupee Papers 67

Bar Silver 28 1-16

The Bank of England Returns for the week ending yesterday show the following results:—Total Bullion £30,210,000; Decrease £20,000; Public Deposits £11,600,000; Increase £100,000; Other Deposits £27,000,000; Decrease £200,000; Other Securities £24,100,000; Decrease £100,000; Notes and Gold £29,300,000; Decrease £200,000. The Banks Reserve is 39 per cent. of the Liabilities.

ENGLISH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LETTER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MAY 5.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

It cannot be said that the agreement come to by Count Mouraviefl and Lord Salisbury as to our respective spheres of railway influence in China, has been received with unbounded enthusiasm in this country, and there is a disposition, especially on the part of the extreme Forward School, to wait for the appearance of the papers before admitting without qualification that the arrangement is a good one. The "Times," for example, cautiously observes that "if the agreement just signed has ended" the danger of a collision in the Celestial Empire "the negotiators on both sides will have earned the gratitude, not only of their own countrymen, but of mankind, for an achievement which should do much to keep the peace of the world." In his remarks on the subject at the Academy banquet, on Saturday, Lord Salisbury naturally confined himself to general terms in his reference to the agreement, and in reply to Lord Kimberley in the Parliament, on Monday, the Prime Minister was not much more illuminating. A "railway agreement concerning our fields of operation in China" was his description of the results of recent negociations, England agreeing neither to undertake nor to encourage the construction of any railway by English persons or others north of the Great Wall, Russia, on the other hand, making exactly similar stipulations with respect to the basin of the Yang-tsze" In addition, there are provisions designed to protect our interests in respect to the Niu-chwang Railway. Naturally the question is viewed with mixed feelings on the Continent, more particularly in France and Germany. In the former country the Anglo-Russian agreement is connected with the evident desire of the Russian Finance Minister, M. Witte, to ingratiate himself with English efforts—a desire happily hit off by Sir John Tenniel in this week's *Punch*. France in the character of a little girl is offering the Russian bear at some zoological gardens a tiny French cake. England in the shape of a fat British boy holds out a fat bun taken from a well-filled bag, labelled Capital. The bear reaches forward to the boy's offering, and says to himself:—"None of your French Rickshaws for me. Give me the British bun!" From Germany it is that we are hearing so much about actual or threatened Russian activity in the Persian Gulf. Some commentators are bold enough to say of these highly coloured stories appearing in the German newspaper that the wish is father to the thought.

THE SITUATION IN THE TRANSVAAL AND THE SITUATION OF MR. RHODES.

Everything points to the near approach of critical events in the Transvaal, and the general feeling that something very important is in the air has given a distinct feeling to what I suppose we must now regard as Mr. Cecil Rhodes' annual appearance as Managing Director of the Chartered Company. Judging from the crowded condition of Tuesday's meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel, on account of Mr. Rhodes gave of the financial assistance he is receiving, it cannot be contended by the "littlest" of Little Englanders that the Warren Hastings of South Africa has lost any of his popularity in this country, at any rate among city men and investors. Although he appeared in the character of an unsuccessful negotiator, who had found, unexpectedly perhaps, more than his match in Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Mr. Rhodes adopted the confident tone that is necessary with city audiences, and he seemed almost to wish to convey the idea that he was not sorry at being refused the desired Imperial guarantee, as it has enabled his friends to rally round him. The guarantee was required for the extension from Bulawayo to the end of their territory. But the directors would go on all the same. The gold companies had subscribed between £450,000 and £500,000, which would carry their line 150 miles northward of Bulawayo. There would still be 750 miles more to build, which would cost £3,000,000, but, as the expenditure would be spre d over four or five years, they proposed to ask for £6.0,000 a year for five years, for which 4 per cent. interest would be paid. They had offers, including £500,000 from Mr. Beit and £200,000 from himself, of £1,700,000, and if the shareholders did not see their way to subscribe, he had not the slightest doubt that they could get the money in the outside market. Apropos of his own small offer of £200,000, Mr. Rhodes made a rather curious remark; "I should have liked to take more," he said, "but during the last ten years I have devoted my mind to politics, and politics and the accumulation of money do not run together." Some people, however—Mr. Labouchere to wit,—tell us differently so far as South Africa is concerned.

A MINISTER APART.

The curious position of Sir John Gorst "vis-a-vis" the Ministry has long been the subject of private comment as well as of newspaper criticism. The curious attitude which this clever but inadequately rewarded man chooses to assume towards the department whose spokesman he is in the House of Commons, towards the Lord President of Council (the Duke of Devonshire), and towards the Government as a whole, has now received serious attention in Parliament itself. The ball was set rolling by Mr. Birrell, who complained that when the Torry Lumkins behind the Treasury Bench did not receive with favour the reforms proposed by the Education Department were given the go-by. Earlier in the evening Sir J. Gorst had amidst great laughter informed the Committee—the House was in Committee of Supply—that the functions of the Vice-President of the Council really are; and after some further preliminary observations he solemnly read the first section of the Order which describes his duties and those of the Lord President. The section is as follows:—"That for the future the establishment, to be called the Education Department, be placed under the Lord President of the Council, assisted by a member of the Privy Council, who shall be the Vice-President of the Committee of the said Privy Council on Education, and shall act under the direction of the Lord President and shall act for him in his absence." These," he added, "are the functions [hears the Opposition cheered and laughed] which I was appointed to discharge. I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to perform those functions, and I shall continue to do so long as her Majesty retains me in my present office." Mr. Birrell, in the course of his speech, pointed that it is not in accordance with the traditions of Parliament or in the interests of education that the work of the Department should be carried on in the House of Commons by one who acted solely under the direction of someone who sat elsewhere, and who was content not to insist upon his right as a member of the Government, or upon his duty as the representative of a great Department, to require those reforms which his Department thought to be necessary. Mr. Bryce pointed out that in the peculiar circumstances of the case the House was entirely deprived of that guidance which an experienced and able Minister ought to give it, and the Leader of the Opposition went a little further. Said Sir Henry Bannerman of Sir John Gorst:—"His views on education are well known. We approve of those views; but he has the strangest idea of his position. He gives no effect to his views, and yet he is con ent to still go on occupying his position. Frankly I must say the right hon. gentleman shows a strange lack of regard for his own personal dignity in remaining in an office for which he unworthy of him to continue in an office for which he shows his contempt whenever he speaks of it. We all know that when he speaks of the Department and of the President of the Council there is a hardly disguised ridicule conveyed to the House." The right hon. gentleman recalled Sir J. Gorst's famous Manipur speech about the tail and short poppies, and added:—"If we were only to be amused by the wit and the ingenuity of the right hon. gentleman the position would be pleasing indeed and harmless enough, but I confess that so light a view can hardly be taken of it. It is almost an affront to the House of Commons and an injury to the country that the great interests of education should be so treated as to be made a field for this somewhat undignified sport." On Monday, the *Times* was constrained to adopt the very unusual course of saying ditto to Sir Henry Bannerman. "The joke has gone too far," thunders the leading journal. "We are tired of watching the Vice-President trip up his friends without advancing the cause of education; and we cannot help feeling that both his personal dignity and the tone of public life are being seriously compromised. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman spoke strongly, but not too strongly, when he denounced it as almost an affront to the House of Commons and an injury to the country that the great interests of education should be made a field for this undignified sport. Sir John Gorst should either loyally support the Lord President, the Duke of Devonshire, or he should resign; and, if he does not see that these are the only two alternatives before him, the Prime Minister might well make this clear to him." On Monday evening, Sir J. Gorst explained without greatly improving his position. "It is true," he said in effect, "that the Department which I represent has been overruled on several occasions, but what is there strange in that? And as for all the talk about resignation, why I should resign if my chief does not do so? I should be guilty of a piece of presumption if I did so. You say I make fun of my Department and my chief. No, I don't." Sir Henry Bannerman, while adhering to all he said on the 28th, observed that his quarrel was not so much with Sir J. Gorst, whose great ability he admired, as with the Government, who allowed the subject of national education to be made the sport of the right hon. gentleman's light fancy. Why was not some other post found for him. "Mind your own business," was Mr. Balfour's retort, though expressed, of course, in more Parliamentary language. So far as mere ability goes, there are only two or three men in the Cabinet who can hold a candle to Sir John Gorst, but he is always kept in subordinate positions. Some say this is because he is not *persona grata* to Lord Salisbury; but I should have thought that a reason for keeping him out of the Ministry altogether rather than for admitting him to an inferior post where with his "topsy turvy humour" he could do harm to the Government as he is doing at present.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN EGYPT.

About fourteen years ago, when in Cairo I happened to call upon a distinguished Pasha, who has since died, and I was rather astonished to find that, although he could speak French with ease, the English language was to him almost an unknown tongue. Further experience showed me that his case was by no means exceptional. At the lecture delivered by Sir John Scott before the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, last week, attention was called by Lord Russell of Killowen and others to the scanty teaching of the English language and the consequent scanty use of English law and English lawyers in Egypt. In an interesting letter to this morning's issue of the *Times* Sir J. Scott shows that matters are not at the present day so bad as they were at the period to which I refer. When Sir John returned to Egypt in 1890, the pupil- in Government schools who learnt French numbered 3,199, whilst those who learnt English only amounted to 1,747. He and some more "perfervid Britons" a little later started an "English Language Prize Fund," which worked very well until that extremely conservative gentleman, Riaz Pasha, came into power. He stopped the whole thing peremptorily. He would hear of no such innovations, and the prizes—watches, books, inkstands, etc.—were stuffed into a cupboard of one of the Government offices, where they probably remain to this day. Lord Cromer having more important things to think of would not interfere, and so "linguistic free trade," to use his own phrase, has continued. But for all that English has progressed. The percentage of French-learning pupils as compared to English learning pupils in 1889 was 74 to 26; in 1898 the percentage was 33 French-learning pupils to 67 English-learning pupils. "The people," says Sir J. Scott, "have realized that the English intend to stay in the country. They will choose the language that is most to their interest to learn, and I feel confident that English will now advance by giant strides. Moreover, Lord Cromer is no longer checked by French opposition at every turn. He has a free hand, and no man in the country is more keen than he is to spread our language throughout the country. It would be useless to declare English a judicial language in the native Courts until the judicial body, or at any rate a majority of the Judges, have acquired its use. But that must come very rapidly now that English teaching is firmly established, not only in the Government schools, but in the School of Law itself, the nursery of both Bench and Bar."

OUR INDUSTRIAL AND INDUSTRIOUS RIVALS.

Mr. Rhodes, in his speech at the Chartered Companies meeting, asked, as many other practically minded people have lately been asking, whatever use is it our taking up new countries if our commercial opponents step in and reap the advantage. Of course, on public platforms we say that we take up new countries for the sake of civilizing their inhabitants, but that is only a portion of the truth. While we do civilise them we are thinking primarily of our pockets and no one recognises this more than Mr. Rhodes. That indeed is what makes him so popular among city men and others who influence our foreign policy. "I want" says Mr. Rhodes "these things to be done by our own people, and I see these manufactured products from other countries increasing more and more." He instanced the case of the Akbara Bridge, which Lord Kitchener is obtaining from the United States. "You may," he proceeded, "say, 'Quite true, but we were not ready in that matter in England, and in America they were ready.' That was a business transaction.' But the other day we gave an order for 250 miles of rails. We had a large number of tenders, and "the lowest tender, you may be sorry to hear, was sent by an American, Mr. Carnegie. Fortunately, however, the tender was not in order, and we were therefore able to give the work to our own people. It may be said that this American tender was a question of workmen and strikes, and it may be the fault of capitalists. I am afraid it is rather a habit when a little wealth is accumulated, for the heir to it to disregard his father's work and spend what has been left to him between Piccadilly and the south of France. I think this question generally is worthy of consideration. It is as important as the London Municipal Council Bill or an Old Age Pension Bill; and it is a thought which I should like to give through you to the English people." Three days only have elapsed since this warning was uttered, and we hear this morning from across the Atlantic that another important tender has been more fortunate than Mr. Carnegie's. It is announced that the Philadelphia Steel Company has secured from the Indian Government the contract for the construction of the viaduct over the Gokteik Gorge on the Burma Railway. The company tendered at 700,000 dollars and outbid their British competitors in price, design, and time. The viaduct will be one of the largest in the world, measuring 2,260 feet long and standing 320 feet high. It will involve the use of 5,000 tons of steel. The manufacture of the material required has begun already. The first shipment will be made in August. The remainder of the material, with a full staff of American workmen, will leave Philadelphia for Burma, so that the construction of the viaduct may be started before the close of November. Mr. Nisbet, in the paper he recently read in London, estimated that it would take the best part of two years to overcome the formidable obstruction caused by this gorge. But when once this obstacle has been surmounted, there will be nothing of unusual difficulty to hinder the rails being rapidly laid through Thibaw up to and beyond Lashio, the capital of the Northern Shan States, distant about 170 miles from Mandalay.

ÆTHERIC TELEGRAPHY.

Mr. W. H. Preece, C. B., the eminent engineer, has invented a fresh name for the new or rather revived electrical development that since Signor Marconi commenced his interesting experiments in the Channel has attracted so much attention. "There is no such thing as wireless telegraphy," said Professor Silvanus Thompson in lecturing before the Society of Arts, twelve months ago. "True," he added, "one can send signals for a distance of a yard or two without any wires, but in all the recent successful attempts to telegraph across space, whether by electric waves or by other means, wires are used. They are indeed run from the sending station to the receiving station, but are used as base-lines." Mr. Preece in a very interesting lecture he delivered before the same society on Wednesday christened the process or processes that Signor Marconi with the friendly assistance of an interested and uninstructed Press has done so much to popularise "ætheric" telegraphy. Signor Marconi's system differs from the one adopted with such good results some time ago by Mr. Preece on behalf of the Post Office. Mr. Preece uses electro-magnetic waves of low frequency—400 per second; Signor Marconi employs Hertzian waves of very high frequency probably of as many millions per second. Messages flashed by the heliograph from the Himalayas to the plains are, Mr. Preece reminded his audience, signalled in the same way as Marconi's messages across the Straits of Dover. The first recorded message from Agamemnon to Clytemnestra, announcing the fall of Troy, was sent by the same agency. "There is nothing wonderful in this. The wonder is that these electric waves should be detected at great distances through all weathers and seasons during day and night and in spite of fog and snow and rain." They are detected by a small instrument called a coherer, which forms a telegraphic relay and is extremely reliable. Some French officers on board the Isis at Sangatte, near Calais, on Sunday, signalled the weather to Wimereux, 20 miles away, notwithstanding that the sending and receiving points were screened by Cape Grisnz. Mr. Preece thinks, and many will agree with him, that our physicists would be better employed if they imitated the enterprising exertions of Signor Marconi. "Many of them," as he says, "seem to think that there is more importance in discovering priority of invention than in making an invention itself." Mr. Preece, on Wednesday, had a complaint to make against the Wireless Telegraph Company, who long ago secured Signor Marconi's services. Permission to connect Sark with Guernsey was given to the company nearly two months ago, and they were asked by the proper authorities to connect the South Sand Lightship with Dover. Neither of these extensions has yet been done. The operations of the company are described by Mr. Preece as mysterious and inscrutable. "Their attentions are apparently more concentrated upon the operations of the Stock Exchange than upon the business establishment of useful circuits." There can be no questioon, Mr. Preece told the members of the Society of Arts, of the commercial value of the system for lightships, isolated lighthouses, shipping generally, and for naval and military purposes, but for commercial uses, such as telegraphic communications with France, the system is at present nowhere. "A single cable to France could transmit 2,500 words a minute without any difficulty. A single Marconi circuit could not transmit more than 20 words a minute."

IN PRAISE OF LORD SANDHURST.

I inadvertently omitted to mention last week an interesting article that appeared in the "Sunday Daily Telegraph" of April 23, headed "Plague, Pestilence and Famine." The writer, who I presume is Sir Edwin Arnold commences with a glowing description of the western capital. "If" he says, "all the cities of her Majesty's mighty and various Empire contended for the palm of beauty, the prize, we think, would have to be given to Bombay. Nothing is fairer or more stately in the world than the view from Malabar Hill over the Indian Sea on one side and the Ghauts, all green and grey, on the other; while if you descend—amid the palms and mango trees—to the busy streets and bazaars, few capitals have finer public buildings to show and absolutely none such a panorama of moving, gay, and picturesque life, drawn from every corner of Asia." The above prefaces a general account of the plague, and is followed by an exuberant tribute to the "gallant and brilliant servants of the Queen—the civil and military officers of the Presidencies"—who everywhere labour with might and main to help the people. "None among them," we are told, "has worked harder for this end or set a brighter and higher example than Lord Sandhurst, who in his beautiful but suffering capital of Bombay has shown himself the model of an English ruler afraid of nothing, sparing himself in nothing, so that he might by personal and administrative energy succour and cheer his subjects. We do not know how a finer or more touching compliment could be paid to the Governor than by the universal satisfaction of the Bombay citizens at the news that Lord Sandhurst was at last retreating to the cooler hill station of Mahableshwar, because they all said 'Now that the Burra Lord Saheb is going we know that means he is no longer so anxious and all things will be better.'" The fall in the rate of mortality "is largely owing to the splendid courage and ceaseless humanity of Lord Sandhurst and of all his subordinates who have held life and wealth as things to squander so that they might keep up in the eyes of the Indian people the glorious traditions of the Queen's Government. India does not and will not forget the examples thus set by such 'Burra sahebs' as Lady Dufferin and the Governor of Bombay." It must be gratifying to Lord Sandhurst to know that his struggle against the plague is appreciated so warmly in this country, but I do not think that his Excellency would claim that the people of Bombay are, as his panegyrist styles them, "his subjects." But that of course is only Telegraphese.

THE PIONEER OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

What seems to be the consummation of Australian Federation has been heralded by the death of the man who first carried through any effective step towards it. James Service was born in the twenties and received the education usual with young Scotchmen destined for business. In the early fifties he emigrated to the then recently founded colony of Victoria, and established a business as general merchant which made him a highly prosperous man. Entering into politics he became, in course of time, leader of the constitutional or Conservative party, in succession to another successful merchant of Scotch birth, Sir James M'Culloch, who, for a certain roughness of appearance and manner, was known as "Ursa Major" in the Australian political world. It was now that Service led the way in establishing the Australian Federal Council, which, however, failed in reaching its proper position through the non-adhesion of New South Wales, always the fickle factor in movements towards federation. It is unfortunate that this was so, as Australian federation would have proceeded on safer and sounder lines through the progressive development of the powers of the body that Service founded than appears likely in the plunge that the Australians are now about to make. Through the defection of New South Wales the Federal Council became little better than an excuse for politicians to take their *os auæ causæ* at the charming little city of Hobart in the hot season, enjoy their *villegiatura*, and exchange opinions tempered by picnics. As Sir Henry Parkes was on the whole the greatest public man that New South Wales raised to power, so the Hon. James Service was the best that Victoria produced. He justly earned a great reputation among his fellow colonists for sagacity and high affairs principle in the conduct of his business and of public

In the domestic circle he was less fortunate, or perhaps less wise. But in the region of the emotions who shall say what is and what is not wisdom? Before leaving Scotland he married a woman of the narrowest calvinistic prejudices, whose defective sympathies prevented her growing with her husband's intellectual development in the new and larger sphere into which he entered in Australia. Sour in spirit and acrid in temper, she was no comforter to a wearied man of affairs. She even managed to get a large number of electors against her husband by advertising for servants with the proposition, "no Roman Catholics need apply." Dicky Steele would never have said of her that to love her was a liberal education; and if Service married in haste he repented at leisure. The natural result followed, and he bestowed on the governess the love that was lost between himself and his wife. What at one time he thought was a marriage turned out to be only a mirage. The solemn plausibilities of life were shattered, but, probably, Service thought that he had not really sinned against the essential verities and bore in mind the Pauline aphorism that "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (love, not marriage which, happy or loveless, Paul distinctly disfavoured). Society (with a big S) of course shuddered and plucked away its skirts from the guilty pair, who continued, pleasant if not lovely in their lives, to dwell in a magnificent mansion and enjoy all that wealth and mutual affection could give. The "de jure" Mrs Service (who was allowed a handsome income by her husband) would never take divorce proceedings, knowing well that the position of the "de facto" Mrs. Service would be immediately "regularised" by her husband. Service twice refused Knighthood, largely moral taceto by the accentuation of "gene" that would be involved in the existence of both a "Mrs." and a "lady" Service and, especially with the wrong woman (from his point of view) as the "lady." He himself never attended social functions other than men's dinners, but society (with a big S), as usual, devoted itself to punishing the innocent. The daughters—one of them an exceptionally beautiful girl—were made to suffer for the devotion of their parents and thus society defended her institutions.

THE DEATH ROLL.

Mr. Power Henry Le Poer Trench, of the diplomatic service; Mr. Henry Offley Wakeman, student and author; Lady Caird; Mr. R. H. Ryves, I.C.S.; General Richard Ardagh; Surgeon-General Richard Cockburn; Deputy Surgeon-General G. E. Farrell; Mr. William Gray, the Glasgow shipowner; Mrs. Emma Marshall, authoress; Mr. R. P. Smith, a former celebrated Derbyshire cricketer; Mr. Benjamin Vincent, honorary librarian of the Royal Institution; Herr Max in E. von Simson, a noted German politician; and Professor Ludwig Leichner, the philosophical writer.

THE LUNGAR FESTIVAL AT HYDERABAD.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HYDERABAD, MAY 17.

The annual Lungar festival took place, yesterday afternoon, in the city of Hyderabad, and at a rough calculation two-thirds of the population of Hyderabad and its suburbs, including Secunderabad, must have taken part in the show or witnessed it from tops of houses which were let out specially for the occasion to anxious spectators. The Minister's palace was the rendezvous for all the state officials, civil and military officers of both Hyderabad and Secunderabad, who were entertained by Sir Vikar-ul-Oomrah at breakfast. For spectacular effect, no festival in India is able to rival the Lungar, and there is nothing astonishing in the fact that all Europeans and Natives make it a point to watch it year after year. The Lungar was originally intended to be nothing more than a march-past through the principal thoroughfares of the city, of the Nizam's Regular and Irregular Troops, but the nobles and the populace have found it a capital opportunity to display their possession of elephants and horses, and to make merry, and so they throw heart and soul into the show. Very few people outside the Deccan know the origin of the "Lungar," which has been annually commemorated in Hyderabad for the past three centuries. It is this: Prince Abdullah, son of Sultan Kuli Kutab, in 1591, rode out on an elephant from the city for Golconda in company with many nobles and attendants. On the road, the elephant became unruly and charged the party. The nobles and attendants fled. The huge beast carried the Prince into the jungle, and for some time it was thought that the young Prince had been killed. The enamoured mother, however, made a vow that she should be restored alive, and had manufactured a chain of gold of the same wheight and size as those used for tethering elephants. The Prince did return alive, and his mother kept her vow. The manufactured gold chain as a thank-offering for his marvellous escape at the shrine of a Shia saint, and eventually broke it up and distributed the gold pieces among fakirs and other beggars. Such is the legend of the Lungar, and the incident of 1594 is commemorated annually with wonderful enthusiasm. The absence of a substitute gold chain has, however, been noticeable during the festival. Yesterday, the show was generally pronounced to be somewhat poorer than it has been, but the diminution in effect can probably be attributed to the great heat which prevailed. The long procession of troops and animals started from the Dilkar House at 3 p.m., and took three hours to pass the Minister's palace, from where the pageant looked quaintly gorgeous and bewildering in the extreme. The procession first showed a surprising variety of policemen, the city police, the mounted and foot police of Secunderabad, and the Arab police in their national costume, headed by Nawab Akbar-ul-Mulk, C.S.I., the Commissioner of Police. Then there came marching past Pathan irregulars, Arabs, riding stately on showy grey horses, the suburban police, Arab jamadars and followers mounted on elephants, the city Irregulars, dressed up as soldiers of any nationality, the splendid Myseram Regiment, 1,000 Strong, looking prim in Khaye costume, the Nizam's Afghans, the Peshkar's Sikhs, well washed and dressed, the Imperial Service Troops, all smart and businesslike, men the fine Golconda Brigade, the Nizam's Sharif-khas Troops, the Camel Sowars, the Bicycle Corps, the mule transport, the Nizam's Regular Troops, the City Regiments, and lastly, Nawab Ghaib Jung's Arab retainers. These troops were followed by the Nizam's magnificent stud, decked out in rich

THE FAR EAST.

AN ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

LAST Saturday the "Morning Post" published in a second edition a telegram, dated from St. Petersburg, stating that an agreement had been arrived at between the British and Russian Governments with regard to "railway matters in China." This was referred to in the evening by Lord Salisbury at the dinner of the Royal Academy, and on Monday in the House of Lords. His statements will be found elsewhere.

CURIOUS REVELATIONS.

A correspondence for whom the "Daily Graphic" vouches as well informed, has sent that journal the following statement:—

The negotiations with Russia, which have now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, have extended over the last eight months. Their origin was rather curious. When Lord Salisbury returned to power at the height of the American troubles in 1895 he recognised that the old Turcophil policy pursued by this country since the Crimean war could no longer be maintained and that a reconciliation with Russia had become imperative. His change of opinion was made known to the public in the two well-remembered speeches in which he refered to Turkey as "a wrong horse" and spoke of hostility to Russia as a superstition of antiquated diplomacy. But Lord Salisbury did not confine himself to these academic expressions. Very soon after his return to the Foreign Office he made definite proposals to Russia, for an examination of all points of conflict between the two countries with a view to a general and permanent understanding. Unfortunately the moment was not propitious for a realisation of this idea, and nothing came of it except a conditional promise of the Czar to join England in coercing Turkey to carry out the schemes of reform recommended by the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople. The growing gravity of events in the Far East and the misunderstanding which ensued between the London and St. Petersburg Cabinets helped still further to defeat Lord Salisbury's project. At length the crisis came in the occupation of Port Arthur by Russia. From that moment the two countries were back in their old roles of traditional and irreconcilable rivals.

The situation after the Port Arthur incident was very serious. The two countries were scarcely on speaking terms so far as the Far East was concerned, although by a curious application of what Sir William Harcourt called the policy of "water-tight compartments," they were allies in regard to Greek and Cretan affairs. It was in these perilous circumstances that the triangular duel was fought over the Neu-chwang Railway concession last summer. The battle really was between Great Britain and Russia, but the combatants refused to recognise each other, and limited themselves to representations of a more or less amatory character to the Tsung-li-Yamen. In the end Russia triumphed. On Aug. 11 the news arrived that the Chinese Government had acquiesced in all the conditions imposed by Russia in regard to the Neu-chwang Railway Loan, thus practically repudiating the contract entered into with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. A few days later the irritation caused in this country by this rebuff was deepened by the further action of the Tsung-li-Yamen in sanctioning the Pekin Hankow Railway concession despite the strong opposition of Great Britain.

When these events occurred Lord Salisbury was abroad and Mr. Balfour was in charge of the Foreign Office. Baron de Staal was also on the continent. Count Muravieff was taking his annual holiday, and Sir Charles Scott, the new British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, had not yet reached his post. A violent newspaper war was raging between St. Petersburg and London, and it was everywhere felt that Europe was on the eve of grave complications. The crisis had, however, been anticipated by a well-known Russian diplomatist, who has more than once rendered good service to the cause of peace. A stray sentence in a leading article in the "Times" suggesting that "an understanding with Russia on reasonable grounds may not be impracticable" gave rise to a private correspondence between this diplomatist and a well-known London publicist. Interviews followed, in the course of which the "reasonable grounds" were discussed. It appeared to both these gentlemen that the crisis was due to a series of regrettable misunderstandings, and that if friendly negotiations could only be initiated a durable agreement would soon be reached. Unfortunately neither side seemed disposed to take the first step. Thereupon the publicist on his own responsibility resolved to communicate to Mr. Balfour what he had learnt of the conciliatory views of the Russian Government. He did so, and within twenty-four hours the Russian Charge d'Affaires was at the Foreign Office, and a full and frank exchange of views took place.

Sir Charles Scott, who had meanwhile arrived at St. Petersburg, was at once instructed to enter into negotiations with Count Muravieff. The Russian Foreign Minister received these overtures with the greatest cordiality and thus the foundation was laid for the Agreement signed last Friday. Notwithstanding the good will of both Governments, the negotiations during the last eight months have more than once threatened to come to an untimely end. The original draft agreement had to be abandoned owing to a difficulty in arriving at an understanding over railway rates in Manchuria. The mission of Lord Charles Beresford and his unwise Russophobe speeches, delivered frequently in the presence of British officials in the Far East, stiffened the Anglophobe elements in St. Petersburg and rendered a resumption of negotiations difficult, and the second Neu-chwang crisis still further impeded their progress. In the end however, the cause of reason prevailed. A fresh basis of negotiations was submitted by Count Muravieff early in March, and was at once approved by Lord Salisbury. An agreement was arrived at a very few days later, and Sir Charles Scott was empowered to sign it.

The Agreement only deals with the spheres of influence of the two Powers.

NOT A CONVENTION.

Reuter's agent at St. Petersburg telegraphs on May 1:—

The arrangement which has just been concluded between Great Britain and Russia in regard to China is not in the form of a Convention. Its terms being set forth in a Note, duplicates of which were exchanged between Count Muravieff and Sir Charles Scott, the British Ambassador here. The preamble states that both countries agree to uphold the integrity and independence of China. The Note, which is not long, comprises no reference to spheres of influence, but makes provision against any clashing of interests in respect of railway development in Manchuria and the Yang-tse Kiang.

It is delared in official circles here that the question of the commercial relations between Great Britain and Russia has never formed the subject of a secret report by M. Witte, although the document recently published in London under that title represents in a fairly accurate manner the ideas of the Finance Minister. These ideas he has often taken the opportunity to express before different committees and administrative bodies in St. Petersburg, as well as through the medium of his agent in London. The Minister's views as to the expediency of an economic rapprochement between the two countries have been put forward in the English Press, and they have, it is maintained, now triumphed in the conclusion of the agreement which has just been signed in St. Petersburg. At the same time it is affirmed that M. Witte has no thought of giving less care than hitherto to the cultivation of better financial, commercial and industrial relations with France, considering such relations, whether with France or Great Britain to be an essential basis of the political agreement between the two States.

The above statement is doubtless of a semi-official character, and appears to have been accepted as such at Paris.

CHINA NEWS.

The chief engineer of the Pekin syndicate has sailed for England, after completing a flying survey through Shan-si to the Yellow River. The forecasts of Baron von Richtshofen's reports as to the immense richness of the coal and iron deposits of Shan-si is confirmed. The engineers condemn the proposed Russian railway from Cheng-ting to Tai-yuen-fu, which could only be constructed at a heavy cost, owing to physical difficulties, but recommend the construction of a railway from the southern borders of Shan-si across the Yellow River.

The British Charge d'Affaires in Pekin officially informed the Tsung-li-Yamen on Saturday that the British Government will require ample satisfaction for the conduct of the Canton Viceroy and the local authorities in conniving at the attack by Chinese soldiers in uniform on the British in the Kowloon. The Tsung-li-Yamen deny the connivance of the authorities, and alleged that the outrage was committed by secret societies.

Pekin, April 29 (*Reuter*).—The Chinese commander, Yuan-shih-kai, is stated on good authority to have dismissed most of the European drill instructors. This action is regarded as confirming the tendency of the Dowager Empress and the reactionary party to discard as far as possible all foreign aid.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

Paris, May 3.—The New York Herald (Paris edition) publishes the following despatch from Singapore:—The Siamese province of Luang Prabang has been ceded to France. The town of Chantaboun and the neutral zone have been abandoned. The direction of the Departments of Public Works and Public Instruction has been promised to Frenchmen. These concessions have given a great impulse to French enterprise in Siam. For instance, the Bangkok Water Supply Works will be carriedout by Frenchmen, and it is probable that the negotiations forthe construction of a railway from Bankok to Saigon will also be successful. The French are satisfied with these concessions. The British will perhaps obtain Rahiman. Telegrams protesting against these new arrangements were delayed several days, and were circulated among the Princes. Foreign agents have assured us that they were despatched on Monday, but on inquiry I find that on Sunday they were communicated to the French Charge d'Affaires.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris, however, telegraphed on May 3 that the above was incorrect. It is declared that no agreement of any kind has been arrived at or signed; much less would a settlement have been reached on the lines suggested in the Herald, such as the abandonment of Chantaboun, or of the right of protectorate over the subjects above referred to.

The "Journal des Debats" says:—

No official communication has as yet confirmed the "New York Herald" statement concerning Siam. We must wait before expressing an opinion regarding this Convention, which is probably not quite identical with the one of which our contemporary gave the outlines this morning. Nevertheless we have learnt from several quarters that the statement of the "New York Herald" is substantially correct, and that we have obtained a fresh advantageous arrangement with Siam.

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INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

PERSIAN CONCESSIONS TO RUSSIA.

IN the House of Lords on Monday, May 1, Mr. Drage asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office had received any information with regard to the Russo-Persian Bank, which had been founded at Tiflis for the purpose of obtaining and working concessions in Persian territory; and whether the Russo-Persian Bank was, like the Russo-Chinese Bank, tantamount to the Russian Government.

Mr. Brodrick: We have received no information as to the foundation of a Russo-Persian Bank at Tiflis, nor any particulars as to a bank of that name.

Mr. Drage asked the right hon. gentleman whether ninety-three per cent. of the imports into Bunder Abbas came from British territory whether the same proportion of the tonnage entering that port belonged to British subjects; and whether any information had reached the Foreign Office of the acquisition by the Russian Government from the Persian Government of any concession in Bunder Abbas for a coaling station, and railway terminus or any other purpose.

Mr. Brodrick: The latest statistics available show that the imports into Bunder Abbas in 1897 from the United Kingdom and from India amounted to ninety-one per cent. of the whole. All steamers that traded with Bunder Abbas in 1897 were under the British flag, and nearly half the sailing tonnage. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

THE PLAGUE.

Mr. Monckton asked the Secretary for India whether the Plague had reached Darbhanga and Mozufferpore, in Bihar; and, if so, what was the rate of mortality.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Plague reached Darbhanga a month ago. During the fortnight ending April 12, forty-two plague deaths were reported from that district; for the fortnight ending April 24, only one plague death has been reported. One plague death was reported in the Mozufferpore district in the week ending April 3. Since and before that week no plague deaths have occurred in that district.

THE TRANSPORT OF INVALIDS FROM INDIA.

On Monday, May 1, in the Commons in answer to Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Powell Williams said:—The provision of a hospital ship for conveying the sick and wounded from India to this country would rest with the Indian Government, and after very full consideration the Secretary of State is not prepared to press the adoption of such a system upon that department. The balance of advantage is not by any means entirely on the side of a hospital ship for the conveyance of invalids as against their more rapid and frequent conveyance on board transports. In the equipment of which great improvements have recently taken place. These considerations apply with special force to our widely scattered colonial garrisons, invalids from which are sent home by packet at the earliest possible opportunity.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIAN WINES.

Captain Sinclair asked the Secretary of State for India whether, the Government of the colony of Victoria paid any bounty, direct or indirect, on the production of wine; and, if so, whether such wine would be liable to a countervailing duty if imported into India.

Lord G. Hamilton: I understand that the Government of Victoria have in the past spent money to encourage the production of wine in that colony, but I doubt whether they have ever taken any measure which would bring their wines under the operation of the Indian Act. As I have already stated in this House the Act will be administered by the Government of India, who must be guided by circumstances and by experience in dealing with the various cases as they arise.

BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

Major Rasch asked the Secretary of State for India whether, taking into consideration the fact that the increase in the number of British soldiers invalided home from India for venereal disease was twenty per cent. over the preceding year in 1895, sixty per cent. in 1893, and 199 per cent. in 1897 over the figure for 1894 he would not propose increase the stringency of the regulations now in force.

Lord G. Hamilton: I must refer my hon. and gallant friend to the answer I gave to his question on this subject on March 9. If the improvement, which, as I then said, has begun to show itself in the admission rate for these diseases is continuous, as I trust it may be, a reduction in the number of invaldings may be expected to follow, though necessarily somewhat later. Until this present regulations have had a fair trial, I do not propose to take any further action.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND PASSAGE MONEY.

On Thursday, May 4.—Mr. Talbot asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether it is possible to grant to the members of the Indian Civil Service the same advantages with regard to passage money which are allowed to police and forest officers.

Lord G. Hamilton: The two cases which are contrasted in my right hon. friend's question do not stand on the same footing. The Indian civilian has advantages both before he leaves for India, and after his arrival there, which the police and forest officers do not enjoy. I am not on the other hand it has never been the practice to pay for his passage to India, and I see no sufficient reason, as at present advised, for making any change in this respect.

INDIAN TRADE AND RUSSIAN TURKESTAN.

Mr. Drage asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether reports have been received by the Indian Government from the British Agent at Ladak and Yarkand with regard to the rapid increase of the trade of British India with Russian Turkestan; whether those reports state that the trade is likely still further to decrease owing to the extension of the Russian railway to Andijan; and whether any suggestions are made in these reports which the Government can adopt for the development of the trade of India with China, through Thibet, to make up for the loss thus sustained.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Ladak Trade Returns for the latest year show a decrease in the trade of India with Chinese Turkestan, which the Assistant Resident at Ladak attributes to the duty levied in India upon hemp exported from Yarkand. The Resident in Cashmere thinks it possible that improved communication with Russian centres may cause further decline in the Indo-Yarkand trade. The Government of India has been considering measures for improving trade between India and Thibet, via Sikkim, and the Viceroy is in communication with the Imperial Council of Thibetan affairs on the subject.

INDIAN RAILWAYS AND IRRIGATION.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: What he will state how much of the 9,850,500 rx. entered in the revised estimate of the Indian Budget as capital expenditure on railways and irrigation works during the year 1898-99, was taken from cash balances, and how much from loans: whether he will also state how much of the 10,433 600 rx. of capital expenditure proposed to be spent in 1899-1900 for similar public works will be raised from loans, and how much from current revenues; and what sum of this large capital outlay will be allocated for water storage and irrigation purposes.

Mr. Herbert Roberts further asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state what has been the net deficiency on the working of the Indian railway system during the year just closed, and what is the estimated financial result of the operations of Indian railways for the current year; and similarly, what is the profit, if any, under the head of irrigation during the year just closed, and what is the estimated profit from the same source for the current year, including the gain accruing to the land revenue from irrigated areas.

Lord G. Hamilton said: The estimates show, as regards railways, a reduction of the deficiency from 2,680,000 rx. in 1897-97 and 1,432,000 rx. in 1897-98 to 878,100 rx. in 1898-99 and 880,000 rx. in 1899-1900. The hon. member is of course aware that the variations in the deficiency are mainly dependent on the rate of exchange at which the payments in England are made. In India the profit on the working of the railways was 5·20 per cent. in 1896, 5·08 in 1897 (when the famine and plague affected the returns), and 5·30 in 1898. In respect of irrigation the estimates show a profit of 239,000 rx. in 1898-99 and of 116,300 rx. 1899-1900.

THE BROTHERS NATU.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India: Will he state what is the amount of the expenses incurred on account of the maintenance of the brothers Natu since their arrest; whether any portion of these expenses are charged to the Natu estate; and, if so, under what provision of law such a charge is made.

Lord G. Hamilton: According to the accounts as yet received, the payments made up to July 31, 1898, out of their estate for the maintenance of the two brothers amounted to 1,912 rs. 4 pies. I have not received accounts of the total cost of their maintenance up to that date, nor of the expenditure from their own resources to that date. The charge made against their estates under management was incurred under section 2, regulation xxv. of 1827, and in accordance with the advice of the legal officers of Bombay.

CHEAP POSTAGE AND THE MAILS.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India; Whether he is aware that since the cheap rate of postage to India heavy additional work has fallen upon the sorters of the Sea Post Office between Bombay and Aden; whether in March last the number of bags in a single mail exceeded 1,000, whereas five years ago the average was barely half that number; whether the sorters have usually to work from 6-30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and whether he will cause such reasonable additions to be made to the staff as will prevent excessive pressure and unduly long hours of work in a tropical climate.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have received as yet no information as to the amount of additional work thrown upon the sorters of the Sea Post Office by the recent reduction in the rate of postage, but I will communicate with the Government of India on the subject.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &c.

Mr. Provand.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether an agreement was made on Oct. 23, 1893, between the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the one part and the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited, of the other part, for laying a second submarine telegraph cable between Singapore and Hong Kong; whether this agreement secured the company against competition and placed them in possession of a preferential right to any future contract or concession for laying further cables between Singapore and Hong Kong for a term of twenty-five years; and whether such agreement was ever presented to Parliament; if not will he state the reason why. (*Monday, May 8.*)

Captain Sinclair.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: If he will give to the House the latest figures in his possession as to the imports of sugar into India from various countries, and the exports of sugar from India; and whether the two duties now levied on European sugar entering India result in a net protective duty of five per cent. in favour of the Indian producer. (*Friday, May 5.*)

Sir John Leng.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: What is the estimated total amount proposed to be contributed towards railway extension by the independent States of India during the current year, and for the three years covered by the Indian Government's programme; what is the aggregate mileage that will be constructed from the funds of these States apart from the proposed line in Cashmere; can the names of the States thus contributing to railway extension be given, with the amounts which each contribute; and can any what terms as to interest, acquisition of lands, and jurisdiction are these railway advances made by these States, and are the princes and chiefs treated with as free agents in these transactions. (*Monday, May 8.*)

Mr. Schwann.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether he has received the report of the Governor of Ceylon on Mr. C. J. R. L. Meurtier's indictment of the Governor and other officials in Ceylon; whether these complaints were sent to the Colonial Secretary in January through the Governor himself; and whether it is imperative on the Governor, under the Government regulations, to report on such a complaint at the time of forwarding it to the Secretary of State; and whether the Inspector-General of Police in Ceylon has protested against the use of police to eject the occupants of lands claimed by the Crown; and whether the Law officers of the Crown in Ceylon have advised against the action of the Governor in using force to occupy such lands, and advised him to proceed under the common law; and has the Government at last taken proceedings under the common law of the Island to assert the right of the Crown to use of these lands; and why the same procedure could not have been taken with all the other lands in dispute. (Thursday, May 11.)

MR. RHODES'S TRANS-AFRICAN SCHEMES.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY MR. RHODES.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the British South Africa Company was held on May 2 at the Cannon Street Hotel. Unusual interest was taken in the proceedings, Mr. Cecil Rhodes being announced to make a speech on the affairs of the company. The Duke of Abercorn presided.

Mr. Rhodes, who was enthusiastically received on rising to address the gathering, remarked that he had to give them his ideas about the country in which they had invested so largely, and at the same time to guard against encouraging the public to excessive gambling in the shares. The position was one of great responsibility, and he therefore approached the subject with extreme caution. The last time he met them they had just emerged from the difficulties of war, and they had also difficulties of administration. He predicted that in two years they would balance revenue and expenditure, and this forecast he thought would be well borne out. He thought it was time the people should make a contribution to the good government of the country, and when certain taxation was submitted at the forthcoming Council meeting his prophecy would, he thought, be fulfilled. Her Majesty's Government insisted upon the maintenance of a very large body of police, which cost 300,000£. per annum. In this he thought they were wise, at all events for the present; they had just passed through a rebellion, but there was absolutely no risk of another. The maintenance of the police was very heavy charge which he hoped would be shortly considerably reduced.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE COUNTRY.

As to the country, he considered it was a fair average district, and compared well with the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Cape Colony. It was specially fitted for the rearing of cattle. The rinderpest had been overcome, the country was refilling with stock, and the people were settling down on the farms.

MINERAL WEALTH.

As to its mineral wealth he had been careful in the past to describe the country only as highly mineralised, but now he could go a step further and say its minerals were highly payable. They had had marvellous products in the Rand, and one could hardly believe that any country south of the Zambesi could be so prolific. He had no doubt whatever about the payable nature of their mines. From the latest returns to hand they had 130,000 claims registered in Rhodesia, spreading over the country an enormous breadth. Mr. Rhodes then gave the crushing returns of some of the principal mines, including the Geelong and W. Nicholson.

Altogether he thought that their start had been very successful, and he could not help believing that in time they would be in a position to hold their own with the best gold-producing States in the world. (Cheers.) He was thoroughly convinced that he was justified in making that statement, and he reminded them of the careful way in which he had spoken of the country hitherto, so the greater importance should be attached to his present announcement.

THE CAPE TO CAIRO RAILWAY.

Passing on to the subject of the African railways, Mr. Rhodes remarked that the Beira Railway had reached Salisbury—and a cable received yesterday said the time for goods to go from Beira to Salisbury would be thirty hours. Nine years ago no civilised persons lived in that country. Mr. Rhodes next referred to a question asked by Mr. John Ellis M.P., in the House of Commons, which imputed the breaking of their covenants by the Chartered Company. Little Englanders, however, were gradually being assured that the African expansion was to be a success, so they gave wasp stings. (Laughter.) The Little Englanders were a very small party and they would have to look out at the next election. Mr. Rhodes dealt in detail with the various railway, and said extensive goldfields had been found close to Victoria Falls, and a group of men in London were prepared to raise 300,000£. to build a narrow gauge railway to within seventy miles of the Falls. That would be done without any guarantee from the Chartered Company. As to the railway from Bulawayo, he thought it might have been built in the form of a Government guarantee. The Uganda Railway having been built entirely by Imperial expenditure, the Treasury informed him that they were unable to give him the guarantee, though he had been encouraged to make the application a year ago. After his recent visit to Egypt he (Mr. Rhodes) suggested that the Government should guarantee the line to Bulawayo. The reply was, that while the Government were willing to undertake the guarantee, the conditions were such that they did not see their way to accept them. So it seemed that the line was postponed to the Greek Kalends. The directors of the company, however, had decided to build the line to the limits of their territory. (Cheers.) Companies who hold claims in Rhodesia had subscribed from 450,000£. to 500,000£. for the extension, on the basis of a three per cent. guarantee—(cheers)—and that would carry them 150 miles. There were 750 miles more to do in their own territory, and he was about to submit a plan to do it. If the shareholders did not like to take it up he could get the money elsewhare. (Cheers.)

Mr. Rhodes proceeded to refer to the fact that good government followed our flag, and pointed out that there was a neighbouring state in Africa producing 17,000,000 of gold per annum, which had been running round Europe to borrow a couple of millions. Unrest would remain in Africa until the people who developed the country shared in its civil rights. (Cheers.) He compared the Transvaal to themselves. They had been able to obtain during a few weeks nearly 10,000,000 of money, and the Transvaal could not get two. Until their system was changed they would not get European money.

Mr. Rhodes was loudly cheered on concluding his remarks, and the meeting was asked to express its opinion as to the scheme. Practically all in the room held up hands in its favour. The proceedings then terminated.

SAMOA.

THE *Times* correspondent telegraphs from Berlin on April 25:—Late last night the German official telegraph agency issued the following announcement:—

An official message of the 18th inst. from Apia states:—"On the arrival of the last post the American ship of war Philadelphia left the harbour of Apia and proceeded to the American treaty port Pago-pago (in the Samoa island of Tutuila). The English ships alone continue the bombardment of the Samoan villages on the northern coast of Upulu. Petty engagements are taking place on land. On the 17th there was an encounter three miles from Apia, resulting in the retreat of the Tanu people. About seventy were killed and wounded. No European was injured. An English detachment held in reserve did not take part in the fight."

Most of the newspapers print this telegram, with certain passages emphasised by leaded type, and the object of all their comments (says the correspondent) is to show that, as the *Berliner Neueste Nachrichten* puts it, "the Americans, in accordance with instructions from Washington, refrain from intervention in the internecine conflicts of the natives, while the English ships of war continue to perform 'deeds of heroism' against defenceless villages."

The object of the German Press is clear. It evidently wishes to convince its readers, and those Austrian and Russian journals which copy its announcements, that England and America no longer co-operate, and that they are not the good friends the English and American Press represent them to be. Such manœuvres are really somewhat puerile, especially when, a few hours later, telegrams have to be published which incidentally correct these hasty conclusions by mentioning the simple fact that Admiral Kautz had gone to Pago-pago to take in coal. But the German Press is in a state of great irritation against England, and seems to be losing its head in its attacks upon us.

A despatch from Samoa of April 22 says that the rebels have retired inland, after demolishing their forts at Vailima and along the coast. There has been no further serious fighting. Another despatch of the same date says that instructions have been received from the home Governments to cease hostilities. It is officially denied in Washington, however, that any undue restraint has been imposed on Admiral Kautz which might encourage the Samoan insurgents.

THE ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS AND CHESTER CUP.

THE One Thousand Guineas Stakes of 100 sovs. each, h. ft., for three-year-old fillies, 9st. each. The owner of the second received 200 sovs. out of the stakes, and the third saved stake. R. M. (one mile and 11 yards).

Lord W Beresford's b f Sibola, by The Sailor Prince—
Skinner 9st ..... J T Sloan 1
Mr A Jame's b f Fascination, 9st ..... F Pratt 2
Mr D Baird's b f Thusa, 9st ..... B Rickaby 3
Mr J w Larnach's Victoria May, 9st ..... J Watts 4

CHESTER MEETING, MAY 3.

The Chester Cup (Handicap) of 2,550 sovs. (a cup value 50 sovs. and the remainder in specie) by subscription of 25 sovs. each, 15 ft., or 5 only if declared; the second received 300 sovs. and the third 200 sovs. out of the race; winners extra. Old Cup Course, nearly two miles and a quarter.

Mr Teddy's ch c by Uncle Mac, dam Nordlichter(on.) by Hagioscops—Nunthorpe's dam, 5 yrs, 7st 7lb..... Finlay 1
Duke of Westminster's br c Bait, 4 yrs, 8st ..... S Loates 2
Mr G H Pentzmer's b m Carnation, 5 yrs, 7st..... Lofthouse 3
Sir J Miller's G lashiels, 4 yrs, 7st 3lb..... Sloan 4

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As a Positive Cure for all Chronic and the most Intractible Female Complaints and Irregularities Parel man vih' is Queen of the World. A powerful Uterine Tonic and Female Regulator for the Cure of all Female Complaints and Irregularities. Innumerable Females suffer in silence diseases peculiar to their sex. These need not suffer any more. Every dose effective. Worth its weight in gold. Price Rs. 3 and 5-8 per bottle (32 and 64 doses). Only from Lawrence and Lynch, Manufacturing Chemists, 5, Royd Street, Calcutta.

GERMANY, ENGLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE following telegrams have been exchanged between the Emperor William and the President of the United States:—

President of the United States, Washington.

The Imperial Postmaster-General has just informed me that your Excellency has kindly given your consent to the landing of the German cable on the shores of the United States. This welcome news will create unanimous satisfaction and joy throughout the German Empire, and I thank your Excellency most heartily for it. May the new cable unite our two great nations more closely and help to promote peace and prosperity and good will among their peoples.

WILLIAM, I. R.

President M'Kinley replied:—

His Imperial and Royal Majesty Wilhelm II., Potsdam Schloes.

I have received with pleasure your Majesty's telegram regarding the joining of the two countries by a direct cable. It afforded me sincere gratification to give consent to the landing of this new cable on the shores of the United States, and the more so as I saw therein an opportunity to further the high mission of international telegraphy in drawing closer the distant nations and bringing their peoples into more intimate associations in the interests of mutual advantage, good will, and amity. That the new cable will prove an additional bond between the two countries is my fervent wish and hope.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

The *Times* correspondent at Berlin says:—In the *Times* of April 17 I referred to the widespread feeling of jealousy and anxiety which prevails in Germany on account of the cordial relations subsisting throughout the world between the two great branches of the English-speaking race, and I described the Emperor William's telegram to Mrs. Kipling as an example of the best method of allaying that feeling. His Majesty has again seized the opportunity of resorting to that admirable method, and has once more shown how entirely his most generous impulses are made to subserve the aims of State policy. The telegrams, it ought to be noted, are both published in their original English text in the German Press. English is the language of "our common race," of which Mr. Kipling has been represented as the bard. English, by the way, was the language in which the business of the Samoan Conference was conducted in 1889, the German members of the conference having acquired a knowledge of it by residence in one or other of the capitals of the English-speaking world.

The telegram of the Emperor shows how far his Majesty's ideas of foreign policy are exalted above the petty rancours of an influential section of the German Press which have found such violent expression in the invectives of the last few weeks.

The *Times* correspondent at Berlin writes (April 30):—

The truth is that a great many of those who make the most noise in German foreign politics do not in the least realise the necessities of the situation. Germany has become deeply committed to what she regards as a policy of commercial rivalry with England and the United States, and in authoritative quarters it is considered imperative that, in the meantime at least, the German Empire should maintain political friendship with these two Powers. A European, still less a purely Continental, policy is no longer adequate for the prosecution of Germany's aims in the opinion of the younger generation of her politicians. "The German Chauvinists," says the *Post*, "demand that Germany should form the centre of a coalition of certain Powers now beginning to develop their navies, and should, with their aid, combat English colonial influence"; but these excited politicians are told that they are in too great a hurry. The time for such a policy has not yet arrived. What Germany needs is a respite in order to develop her own naval power, and to shape her policy with a view to ultimate if still somewhat remote advantages. At present "our new mission on the seas requires special care and skill in order to keep it in harmony with our Continental policy. . . Germany, as a naval Power, has to show a certain consideration for the other naval Powers, of which England is the first. . . The Chauvinists forget what endless toil was required in order to repair in the realms both of home and of foreign politics the ravages wrought by the neglect of centuries." England is at present so strong that it would be madness to challenge her; but who can tell what opportunities the future may bring? At the moment, it seems impossible to make any profit out of the old Bismarckian policy of playing off Russia against England, and reaping a commission from both sides as "honest broker." But it is a long lane that has no turning.

THE "LONDON GAZETTE."

ADMIRALTY, April 25.

THE undermentioned gentleman to be a lieut. on the Supernumentary List of her Majesty's fleet, under the provisions of her Majesty's Orders in Council of June 29, 1893, and Aug 6, 1898:—Sub-Lieut. of the Royal Naval Reserve C G A Lenny.

Royal Marine Light Infantry—The name of Sec Lieut E W Hammond is removed from the list of second lieuts medically unfit for further active service.

Royal Naval Reserve—Assist Engr W Glen has been promoted to the rank of engineer.

April 26.

Engr A F Kingsmoth has been promoted to the rank of chief engineer in her Majesty's fleet.

April 27.

Lieut H G Paris has been placed on the Retired List with permission to assume the rank of commander.

April 28.

The undermentioned probationary lieuts have been confirmed in the rank of lieut on the supplementary List of her Majesty's fleet under the provisions of her Majesty's Orders in Council of June 29 1893 and Aug 6, 1898:—R Crabtree W C McMickan. In accordance with the provisions of her Majesty's Order in Council of April 30 1877 Engr J O'Neill has been placed on the Retired List.

April 29.

The undermentioned sub-lieuts have been promoted to the rank of lieut in her Majesty's fleet—A C Fellowes O Schwann. The undermentioned acting sub-lieuts have been confirmed in the rank of sub-lieut in her Majesty's fleet—A C Fellowes O Schwann W J C Lake H McLeod Fraser T L Goldie A F St Clair Armitage J W Carrington M Beech R C Hawkins F A Marten W R C Moorsom C C Walcott F F Chapman V A E Hanning-Lee B G Washington M E Cochrane. In accordance with the provisions of her Majesty's Order in Council of Sept 15 1857, the undermentioned chief boatswains have been allowed to assume the rank of honorary lieut on retirement—W E Ledlard A Sanders R Brown

May 1.

The undermentioned clerks have been promoted to the rank of assist paymr in her Majesty's fleet—namely:—G H B Rogers J T Gedge W F E O'Byrne.

WAR OFFICE, May 2.

6th Dragoon Guards—Capt H Peregrine Leader is seconded for service on the Staff.

7th Dragoon Guards—Capt H S Follett to be major vice W E Danby ret.

4th Hussars—Lieut W L S Churchill resigns his commission.

9th Lancers—Lieut Henry retires his commission; Second Lieut E H E Abadie to be lieut vice T M H Kincaid-Smith seconded.

12th Lancers—Lieut W H Greenly to be adjutant vice Capt E Loder whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

Royal Artillery—Capt H W M Parker is seconded for service with the Native Art in India; Lieut R Waring from the Seconded List to be lieut vice A L B Jacob, appointed an instructor in gunnellery; Capt G L Johnstone from the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Edinburgh Art to be lieut.

Grenadier Guards—Major T H H Bradford-Atkinson retires from the service receiving a gratuity; Capt H G Ruggles-Brise is seconded for service on the staff.

Scots Guards—Capt H E Dering is seconded for service on the Staff.

Regimental District—Brevet Col W Wood, from lieut-col half-pay to be col to command the 87th Regimental District (Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers), vice Col W T Dooner, whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

LINE BATTALIONS.

The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)—The undermentioned officers are seconded for service on the Staff:—Capts G R Lascelles, R G Hely-Hutchinson. Supernumerary Dep E I North to be capt, vice G R Lascelles.

The Norfolk Regiment—Capt A J H Luard is seconded for service on the Staff.

The Lincolnshire Regiment—Capt P F R Newbury retires on ret pay; Supernumerary Capt J Pim to be capt vice P F R Newbury. The undermentioned officers are seconded for service on the Staff:—Capt H E Walter, Lieut W B Hunter.

The Suffolk Regiment—Capt F S Cooper, from 4th King's (Shropshire Light Inf), to be second lieut, in succession to Lieut A Turner, prom.

The Royal Irish Regiment—Capt W Edgeworth-Johnstone is seconded for service on the Staff.

The Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment)—Capt J W B Silverthorne retires on ret pay.

The Royal Scots Fusiliers—Second Lieut G C Briggs University candidate from 4th Volunteer batt the Suffolk Regt to be second lieut in succession to Lieut A M H Forbes prom.

The Cheshire Regiment—Capt R E Hussey is seconded for service as an adj of Volunteers.

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)—Lieut HIM Wollstein resigns his commission.

The Worcestershire Regiment—Supernumerary Capt J E Bell to be capt vice G T Peacocke seconded.

The Dorsetshire Regiment—Major M J M Fenwick is placed on ret pay.

The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)—Lieut F G J Tait is seconded for service on the Staff.

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment—The undermentioned officers are seconded:—Lieut R A Robinson for service on the West Coast of Africa; Lieut R E H James for service with the Chinese Regt.

Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment)—Lieut-Col W A Collings on completion of his period of service in command of a battalion is placed on half-pay; Major F C Carter to be lieut-col vice W A Collings.

The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)—Capt B E Ward is seconded for service on the Staff.

Seaforth Highlanders (Rosshire Buffs the Duke of Albany's)—Capt N C Macdachlan to be adj vice Capt and Brevet Major G J Ramsden who has resigned the appointment.

The Gordon Highlanders—Lieut A F Gordon is seconded for service with the British Central African Regt.

The Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)—Lieut J Johnston-Stewart is seconded for service with the British Central African Regt.

The Royal Army Medical Corps—Capt H A Berryman is placed on temporary half-pay from Feb 28 1899 and not as stated in the "Gazette" of March 21 1899; Capt C S Robinson is placed on ret pay.

Staff—Col J M Babington from an assist adj gen in India to be a col on the Staff to command a Cavalry Brigade vice Col (temporary Major-Gen) J B B Dickson C B who has vacated that appointment; Major F J A Trench R A to be a brigade Major for Royal Art vice Major N W H Du Boulay R A who has resigned that appointment.

Military Prisons Department—Major C D Johnstone the East Surrey Regt to be governor of a military prison.

Army Pay Department—Major G D Collings paymr to be Staff paymr vice Lieut-Col W B Caulfeild-Stoker prom.; Capt A W B Buckle from the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt) is permanently appointed to the Army Pay Department retaining his substantive rank

Army Veterinary

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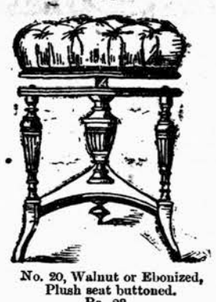
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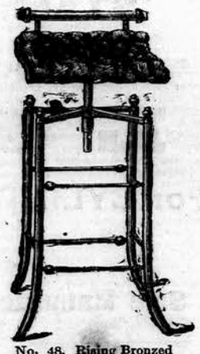
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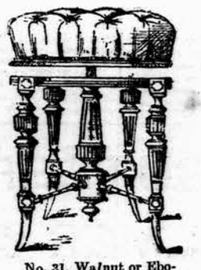
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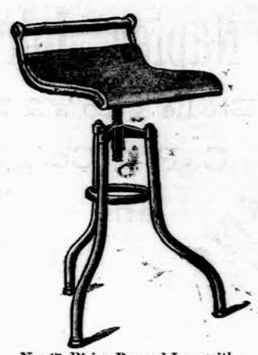
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An editorial in the INDIAN MEDICAL RECORD, of October 16th, 1897, says:—
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A New Era in Cod Liver Oil Manufacture.

We are indebted to recent scientific researches for the revelation of the no less surprising than important fact, that of all the Cod Liver Oil hitherto produced not a particle has been really pure, even when claimed to be "the purest"; however pure the source, the oil *must* by the present system of manufacture always be contaminated with decomposition products of its own fats, hence the nauseating and "repeating" properties.

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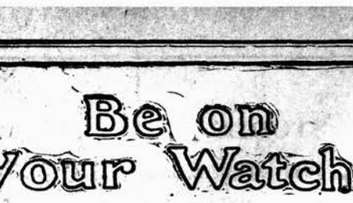

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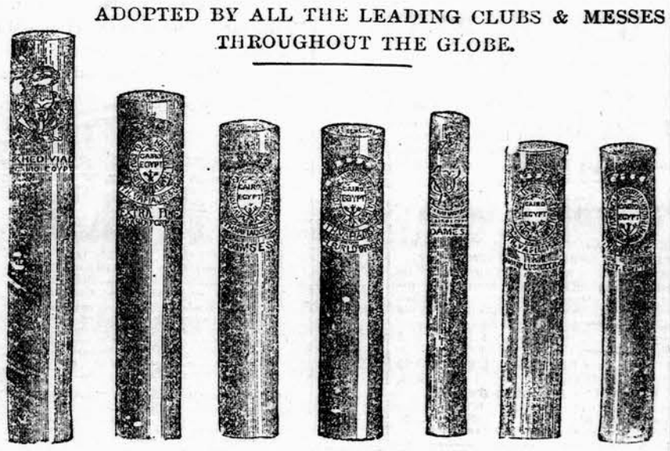

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